STRICTURES

AND

OCCASIONAL OBSERVATIONS

UPON THE SYSTEM OF

BRITISH COMMERCE with the EAST INDIES:

WITH

REMARKS AND PROPOSED REGULATIONS, FOR ENCOURAGING THE IMPORTATION OF SUGAR FROM BENGAL; AND HINTS FOR AN ARRANGEMENT OF THE TRADE, AFTER IT SHALL BE SEPARATED FROM THE REVENUE, OF OUR TERRITORIAL ACQUISITIONS.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

A SUCCINCT HISTORY OF THE SUGAR TRADE IN GENERAL,

BY

THE AUTHOR OF "A SHORT REVIEW OF THE TRADE OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY."

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE whole of this publication was prepared for the preſs in the month of February laſt; under a general belief that Government had given it to be underſtood, that the duties and drawback upon ſugar from Eaſt India ſhould be put upon equal footing with thoſe from the Weſt India iſlands.

It now, however, appears that the meaſure is not yet poſitively determined upon; the reaſoning, therefore, muſt be taken as founded on a ſuppoſition, inſtead of an eſtabliſhed fact.

While this pamphlet was under the compoſitor's hands, the writer has been favoured with the peruſal of a "General View of India Affairs," publiſhed by a Gentleman in office under the Board of Control; in which appear many ſtatements correſpondent with ſome of thoſe herein produced, and which ſtrongly corroborate the facts now laid before the reader.

From a haſty peruſal of the book, nothing yet occurs to induce the writer of the Short Review to alter his reſult of the India imports for the five years comprehended in his ſtatement. It is therefore

therefore again produced in Appendix, F. in contraſt with one for the year 1790-1791.

Should any thing appear, upon a more careful examination of Mr. Anderſon's accounts, to induce a conviction that he is right, and the author of the Review miſtaken as to the value of the trade for that period, an acknowledgment of the error will be found at the concluſion of this publication; his purpoſe being ſolely the eſtabliſhment of truth for general information, not to miſlead, or diſſeminate error, from any party motive whatſoever.

ERRATA.

Page	Line	
52	3,	*inſtead of* carry with them, *read* carries with it.
ib.	9,	*for* elder, *read* Elder.
58	16,	*for* cloth and adventures, *read* cloth-adventures.
67	(note, line 2)	*for* and of the diſtricts, *read* and of the capacity of the diſtricts.
72	14,	for ocupations, *read* occupations.
85	2,	*for* expedient ſhall, *read* requiſite.
95	ult.	*for* this individual, *read* his individual.
100	17,	*for* here, *read* in Great Britain.
112	3,	*for* ſome or other, *read* ſome one or other.
137	17,	*for* encourages, *read* encourage.
144	(note)	*for* have called, *read* have call, *i. e.* demand.
150	15,	*for* muſlin worn, *read* muſlin afterwards worn.
168	8	*for* are, *read* is.

INTRODUCTION.

" THERE cannot be any thing more
" worthy of a good citizen in a free ſtate,
" than to ſtudy public affairs with candour
" and aſſiduity. It is his privilege, it is his
" birthright to apply himſelf to the know-
" ledge of thoſe things, which as they be-
" long to all, ought to be the care of all;
" and in order to this all ought to under-
" ſtand them. In a free country, every man
" who is properly qualified may be called
" to take a part in government, and there-
" fore every man who finds he has ta-
" lents requiſite to ſuch enquiries ſhould
" purſue them, that, whenever occaſion of-
" fers, or his duty requires, he may be in
" a capacity to ſerve his country; that is

" to ſerve it effectually, with utility to the
" common weal, and with honour to him-
" ſelf. For theſe are circumſtances inſepa-
" rable, and the public muſt be uſefully
" ſerved, otherwiſe a man cannot be ſaid,
" or be conſcious to himſelf, of having
" ſerved the public with honour.

" It may be truly affirmed of this, as of
" every other virtuous and honeſt employ-
" ment, that a man finds his intereſt com-
" bined with his duty. The ſtudy of pub-
" lic affairs enlarges the mind, ſtrengthens
" the faculties, and extends all the powers
" of his underſtanding. It was this, that
" elevated the great men of antiquity to that
" height of reputation, and made them ſeem
" not only equal, but even ſuperior to the
" moſt exalted ſtations. It enabled them,
" and will enable us if proſecuted with
" due application, to judge of things from

" our proper lights, to have opinions of our
" own, and conſequently to be out of the
" reach of impoſition, which is the only
" method that leads to ſteadineſs in conduct,
" and to an invariable purſuit of our own
" intereſts, by promoting thoſe of our coun-
" try. This is rational and intelligible patri-
" otiſm, by which the happineſs of the
" individual ſpringing from the welfare of
" the public, he never can be tempted to
" digreſs from the right road, or be flattered
" with the fooliſh hopes of aggrandizing
" himſelf or his family, at the expence of
" his country, which this ſtudy will con-
" vince him is a practice as weak as it is
" wicked.

" As the turning men's minds to the con-
" ſideration of ſuch things would be pro-
" fitable to the ſtate; ſo it would at the ſame
" time be uſeful and ſerviceable to govern-

" ment. The views of an adminiſtration
" can only, in the opinion of ſenſible people,
" procure it either the denomination of good
" or bad: and as the welfare of the ſtate
" muſt be the ſole object of an upright ad-
" miniſtration, it is impoſſible that ſuch a
" one ſhould diſtaſte or diſcourage ſuch
" ſtudies, or, to ſpeak with greater propriety,
" ſhould not eſteem and cheriſh them.

" A good adminiſtration can derive its
" ſtability from nothing elſe; for they will
" be beſt ſupported by thoſe, by whom their
" deſigns are beſt underſtood. If then the
" generality of the nation, or at leaſt the
" men of family and fortune, bend their
" thoughts this way, and become thereby
" both able and candid judges of their con-
" duct, miniſters who mean well, can never
" have any thing to fear. Factions take
" their riſe, and are ſtrengthened from im-

" poſitions

" poſitions on weak underſtandings, and " have always a bias to luxury and licen- " tiouſneſs, becauſe they divert the thoughts " of men from the ſerious conſideration of " their true intereſts to the gratification of " their humours, or their paſſions: but if " the real, certain, and permanent ſources " of national happineſs were cloſely and " candidly examined into, and clearly and " thoroughly underſtood, there would be no " room left for theſe deluſions, *and the na-* " *tion, feeling its own felicity, would fear* " *nothing ſo much, as an alteration in its* " *circumſtances*; *and a change of thoſe mea-* " *ſures, from which ſo many benefits had been* " *derived.*"

The meaning and motives of this publication are ſo much better expreſſed in the above quotation (from a ſenſible book writ-

ten in the year 1753*), than the author of the following ſheets could have done for himſelf, that the public, it is imagined, will readily excuſe his adopting them.

The concluding remark appears peculiarly applicable to the preſent occaſion. And the general ſentiment ſo juſtly expreſſed therein, of the duty incumbent upon every citizen to enquire into the material intereſts of his country, it is hoped, may rouſe the ſleeping attention of the people of this kingdom to the contemplation of the ſtate of our intereſts and connection with India.

In this view, this pamphlet is now offered to their notice, as well for giving an opportunity to the public to judge of the ſub-

* " Conſiderations on the Sugar-Trade: printed for Baldwin."

jects

jects treated in it, as for enabling Miniſtry to adopt what they ſhall find uſeful and applicable to the ſtate of exiſting circumſtances.

Upon the principles laid down by this author, which no one at this time of day will attempt to controvert, every man ought to be able to deliver an opinion upon public meaſures. To form that opinion, he muſt have leiſure to deliberate upon them, and a full ſtate of facts before him, on which to form his judgment: he may otherwiſe be liable to ſimilar miſtakes with thoſe upon which we have had frequent occaſions lately to animadvert.

But it frequently happens, that many of thoſe who wiſh to exerciſe their judgment upon topics of national importance, are precluded by the want of ſufficient previous in-

formation. Even the publicity which ſanctions every act of our legiſlature, and which is one glorious characteriſtic of our conſtitution, has not been always able to ſecure to the members compoſing it either time or materials competent to correct properly their determination.

Had there been time for a ſufficient inveſtigation of the ſubject, the laſt motion, for an augmentation of the Eaſt India Company's capital, would not have been ſupported upon the grounds which were then adduced.

Happily this has not been the caſe with reſpect to our general intereſts, as connected with the Eaſt Indies or the Eaſt India Company. The frequent enquiries of the proprietors into their own ſituation; the dazzling ſplendour of our acquiſitions of territory; the very difficulties into which ſeeming

ing proſperity and ſucceſs have thrown the whole India ſyſtem, and which have repeatedly called for the correcting and protecting hand of the legiſlature, have altogether produced a body of information, which perhaps no other object of public attention ever brought forth in any government whatever.

But ſuch is the magnitude and variety of the ſubject, that it requires no common abilities and application to form any juſt idea of the whole ſyſtem, even admitting that a correct and faithful abſtract ſhall be ſtated of the different branches which compoſe it.

Too great credit cannot be given to the preſent Adminiſtration, for the candour and openneſs of their conduct, in laying annually before Parliament both the materials and the reſult of their own labours in this department.

They

They are undoubtedly entitled to the public gratitude by this line of conduct, and have acquired by it a degree of confidence, ſeldom before given to a Britiſh Miniſtry.

The time is now come when that confidence is going to be put to the fulleſt proof. A revolution is about to take place in the affairs of the Eaſt India Company, which certainly will materially change, and probably either improve or injure the general ſyſtem of Britiſh commerce.

Upon this ſubject Miniſtry had precluded themſelves by act of parliament; though not from acquiring information, yet from all efficient, active interference. It may therefore be a matter of doubt whether they themſelves have as yet been able to collect all the information which the ſubject requires; and if Government do not, how can the other members of both Houſes

obtain

obtain ſuch lights, unleſs individuals, whoſe purſuits and occupations have thrown them into the way of acquiring knowledge of theſe matters from their own experience, will acquit themſelves of their duty, by furniſhing the reſult of their information to the public?

Aware of the danger of diſturbing exiſting eſtabliſhments, to make room for new ones, the following obſervations would never have been offered to the public, if it was not underſtood from authority, that great and important changes are determined upon.

A ſyſtem is ſaid to be actually framed for the regulation and future government of our commerce with the Eaſt Indies and China, which waits only the news of a peace in the Carnatic, to be ſubmitted to Parliament;

ment; but no part of it is at preſent ſuffered to tranſpire.

The following hints and obſervations are the reſult of ſome experience, and much reflection upon this ſubject. If any of them coincide with the principles adopted by the ſervants of the public, they will confirm the author in his private judgment; and if any new lights ſhould chance to be thrown out, they are much at the public ſervice.

The brief account of the Sugar Trade has been added in the Appendix (A), as a paper which cannot but prove acceptable to the public at this juncture, when the importance of it to Great Britain, and the encouragement proper to be given to the attempts at furniſhing this commodity from Africa and

and from the Eaſt Indies, are immediately under diſcuſſion.

The ſtatements of Bengal accounts (C, D, and E) are given to ſupport facts ſtated in theſe remarks.

The two profit and loſs accounts (F and G) of the Company's import commerce, are contraſted, to ſhew the writer's impartiality, who truſts he is influenced by no party or private motives whatever, and in order to juſtify the remark (p. 20 of his ſhort review), that the trade would probably become more beneficial under the preſent improved management, than it has been heretofore.

The writer has already explained his reaſons for having changed his ſentiment, at the concluſion of that performance, regarding the ſeeming impropriety of ſuggeſting hints

hints for the future management of the India commerce, before the plans of Government are ſubmitted to Parliament; and he truſts that every candid reader will juſtify his having, upon maturer reflection, adopted a different opinion.

STRIC-

STRICTURES, &c.

CHAP. I.

EAST INDIA SUGAR.

SINCE it has been wiſely determined *, at ſome future period, to put this neceſſary of life, imported from the Eaſt, upon the ſame footing with that brought from our dominions in the Weſt Indies, by equal rates of duty and drawback, and in the mean time to encourage importations from thence; and it has been demonſtrated, that the commodity is obtainable from India in

* When this was firſt written, it was generally underſtood to be the intention of our Government to equalize the duties on the next importation of Eaſt India ſugar. We now find the meaſure poſtponed.—Mr. Dundas's anſwer to the Weſt India planters, March, 1792.

any

any quantity *, upon terms which, even at the preſent chartered freights, promiſe a mercantile

* Extract of a letter, dated Calcutta, the 19th Auguſt, 1791.—" The kind of ſugar uſually exported comes from Benares, and is ſomething like our Weſt India clayed ſugars; for it undergoes a ſecond boiling; is cooled in pots; and refined, by paſſing the liquid through a ſort of Jewaſſee graſs, inſtead of the Weſt India method of claying; afterwards ground, to make the ſugar ſoft and of a fine grain, which of courſe injures it in the ſame proportion for the European market. This was the kind of ſugar ſent home for the Company.

" I think our ſtrong grained ſugar, fit for refining, would anſwer beſt; however, time will ſoon point out that which is moſt adapted to the home market.

" All ſorts of ſugar and jaggery are now very cheap; but Benares ſugar at 6 to 6½ current rupees the factory maund; Rungpore 4½ to 5½.

" Jaggery, little inferior to Muſcovada ſugar, from one C. R. eight anas, to two C. R. the factory maund. I mention factory maunds and current rupees for the ſake of eaſy calculation; as you know that one factory maund and a half is one hundred weight.

" Theſe are the preſent Calcutta prices, where I have always

mercantile profit, it obviouſly is become the duty, as well as the intereſt of the Eaſt India Company, to adopt the earlieſt and beſt meaſures for ſupplying the markets of Europe, through the port of London, with the quantity required.

The acquiſition of revenue and naval

always found it cheaper, than purchaſing, by advances, at the places of manufacture.

" Sugar arrives at market about this time, and can be had here now in any quantity.

" Benares ſugar could at preſent be laden on board of ſhip, all expences included (viz. charges, tranſport and package, with Company's duties, and agent's commiſſion added to the invoice-coſt), at 20 s. 6 d. ſterling the hundred weight.

" Coarſe ſugar at 12 s. to 16 s.

" Several of the diſtillers on the banks of the river are increaſing their works, in order to convert their jaggery (the juice of the cane, as firſt expreſſed) into ſugar and ſugar-candy."

ſtrength which this country will gain, by the reſtriction of this trade as much as poſſible to Britiſh bottoms, enſures the cordial ſupport of Government to any wiſe expedients which the directors of the Company ſhall judge neceſſary to its ſucceſs.

Although the private intereſts of any, however powerful, body of men, in whatever manner connected with the Company, may ſeem likely to be affected by the neceſſary reduction of freight upon this article, ſuch conſideration muſt not be permitted to prevail againſt the intereſt of the kingdom at large, which is deeply involved in the ſucceſs of the ſugar-trade.

Sugar, it is well known, is procurable in moſt parts of India; but Bengal was formerly the country which ſupplied the

greateſt quantity for exportation. The cheapneſs of labour and proviſions; the nature of the ſoil and climate on the banks of the Ganges and Berhampoota, with the extreme facility of internal tranſport by water-carriage, account for its being the principal mart for ſupplying all bulky produce required in the trades to Muſcat and the eaſtern parts of Africa.

Sugar was never brought from India to Europe in any conſiderable quantity, ſince it became a branch of American trade. The Dutch Company have been ſometimes obliged to import it refined from Batavia, when their funds abroad were inſufficient for filling up the tonnage of their homeward-bound ſhips with more valuable commodities.

This article has long been an object of importance in the eyes of individuals there, who contemplated with ſatisfaction the many valuable, though dormant, reſources that country poſſeſſed for enriching our own; but no man ventured to embark in it while loaded with the Company's freight and impoſitions, and while the ſugars from our Weſt Indies ſold in Europe at reaſonable prices.

Notwithſtanding which, a direct application was made to Government, at the cloſe of Lord North's adminiſtration, pointing out this and other branches of cultivation; and an agent was ſent to England expreſsly for the purpoſe of explaining them: but very little attention, and leſs encouragement, was at that time given to any thing which appeared likely to interfere with our Weſt India iſlands.

Other

Other reaſons, beſides the local advantages already mentioned, concur to recommend a preference of Bengal in the encouragement now at laſt intended to be given to Eaſt India ſugar. The territory producing it is our own, and yields a conſiderable revenue, which may be improved by increaſing its cultivation. Our poſſeſſion of that country affords ſecurity to the Capitals employed in trading thither, and a certainty of regular ſupplies of merchandiſe in return.

Theſe two points—the propriety of encouraging the importation of Eaſt India ſugar at this period, and the preference of Bengal for its ſupply—being admitted, it will only remain, to adopt the moſt rational plan for purchaſing it there on account of the Company. Much ability and intelli-

gence will doubtleſs be employed in ſuggeſting hints for the purpoſe. The following, it is poſſible, may afford ſome little aſſiſtance.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

PROPOSED REGULATIONS.

BENGAL ſugar is an article of produce rather than of manufacture; equally ſo with ſalt and opium: the proviſion of it, therefore, on the Company's account, ſhould be confined to the revenue department, until depoſited at the port of Calcutta.

The zemindars and farmers ſhould be allowed to furniſh ſugar, according to the nature and extent of their lands, at a reaſonable fixed price, deliverable to the collector of each province at certain periods, on the ſpot moſt convenient for water-carriage to the preſidency; and be permitted to paſs the value, by inſtalments, in ac-

count of their reſpective annual rent or land-tax.

The ryots ought to be encouraged in this cultivation, by a reduction of the arbitrary nereck, or extra rent, exacted on all lands employed in ſugar-cane; and by the liberty of chooſing henceforth whatever cultivation they find moſt beneficial *. Where, as in Bahar, the ryot pays his rent in kind, by delivering a proportion of every crop, the farmer's purchaſe-rate of ſo much as is given him in this way is aſcertained without diſpute. But, for all above, and where

* As the ſucceſs of this plan muſt greatly depend upon the emancipation of the cultivator of the ſoil from all arbitrary influence over his landed poſſeſſions, and this regulation goes to innovate upon the revenue principle at preſent in practice, though perhaps foreign to the immediate ſubject we are here treating upon, it may not be improper to conſider a little what are the inherent rights of this deſcription of men; a ſhort chapter, therefore, follows upon this particular ſubject.

the

the rents are diſcharged in money, an adequate price ſhould be fixed for each diſtrict by Government; at which rate the farmer ſhould be obliged to advance his ryot in money, or paſs the amount of what ſugar he receives, in the annual account between them,

No ryot ſhould be compelled to contract at all, nor to part with more of his produce to the farmer, than he ſhall voluntarily have contracted for.

No farmer ſhould be obliged to engage for thus ſupplying ſugar, unleſs he ſhall ſee an evident benefit to himſelf by ſo doing.

The provincial revenue-collectors ſhould make contracts with the farmers, and attend to the improvement of the cultivation.

They

They ſhould be charged with the reception and diſpatch of the ſugar to the export warehouſe in Fort William, and take credit in their reſpective treaſury-accounts for the ſum allowed the farmers, as coſt and for the ſubſequent charges.

A modification of the laſt improved regulations reſpecting the Company's weavers, the opium-makers, ſalt and ſalt-petre boilers, will enable the judicial officers of Government to protect the ſugar-planters alſo againſt oppreſſion.

The Kalſa, or general treaſury, ſhould be directed to charge the commercial board with the amount, coſt, and charges of what is ſent to them, in part payment of the general ſum allotted for each year's inveſtment.

The

The board of trade will then ſhip what they have tonnage for to Europe, ſupply ſtores to the other ſettlements when required, and may put up the remainder to public auction; previouſly appriſing the ſupreme council of their intention, and of the quantity remaining to be thus diſpoſed of.

This article, if it can be brought home to advantage, cannot be carried on too extenſively, while tonnage is obtainable: for it will improve the cultivation of our provinces, and abſorb but a ſmall proportion, compared to the bulk of the funds annually allotted for Bengal inveſtments.

Should there at any time be obtained by the foregoing plan a greater quantity than wanted by the Company, the ſurplus (as

ſalt-

ſalt-petre has often been) may be ſold at auction, in the manner above recommended, to very conſiderable advantage.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

PROBABLE BENEFITS OF THIS PLAN.

1. BOTH ryot and farmer would be very conſiderable gainers. The influence of the one, and the induſtry of the other, would acquire new energy, from the certainty of a conſtant and profitable demand for what ſugar Government required; without being limited in their plantations, or prevented from ſelling any ſurplus to others wherever a good market offered.

2. No advances would be required of the Company in this branch of inveſtment;—no riſks of bad balances.

3. The Company, becoming the moſt conſiderable purchaſers, would be able ſo to regulate

regulate the price, as to preſerve it at a proper medium between the cultivator and exporter.

4. The Company would obtain this commodity at firſt hand without adulteration, and at the loweſt poſſible rate; unclogged with the intereſt of money upon expenſive buildings* and heavy capitals, nor with inter-

* The mill uſed by the natives for grinding ſugar-canes is compoſed of two pieces of bamboe with the knots ſmoothed off, and the thick end of one piece turned to the thinner of the other, confined by ropes and four other bamboes ſtaked in the ground under the tree moſt contiguous to the ſpot whence the canes are cutting. This mill does not coſt two-pence all together, for materials and workmanſhip.

The reſt of the proceſs is proportionally cheap—a few earthen pots for boiling and refining, with coarſe hempen bags to pack it up for market.

The fodder which the canes afford to the ryots cattle,

intermediate profits between the manufacturer and exporter, and without giving

cattle, goes a great way towards paying for the extra labour of this cultivation.

The lands require previous cleanſing, and manure where to be had.

Two obſtacles will probably obtrude to prevent this article, in the beginning of the ſpeculation, proving beneficial to the company as traders.

The firſt that ſuggeſts itſelf is, the competition which individuals have meditated for monopolizing what ſhall be found at market, in order to bring it home on foreign bottoms.

The other, and more material, is the preſcriptive right aſſumed by the farmers over the ryots, of exacting an extraordinary rent upon ſuch of the lands as are employed in this branch of cultivation. In the lower part of Bengal, where the general Mahlgurarry, or rent, has been from ten to fourteen anas, or 1s. 3d. to 1s. 9d. ſterling; three rupees and half, and four rupees, or ſeven ſhillings, and eight ſhillings, have been collected upon the ſugar-grounds. Whether the difference goes into the farmer's pocket altogether, or is divided between him and Government, the writer of this paper is unable poſitively to determine.

occaſion

occaſion to exert either influence or power, in order to induce the natives to increaſe the growth of this important article of produce.

5. The managem nt of this trade would principally remain in the hands of the natives; and aſſiſt in maintaining a number of thoſe, whom the late improved ſyſtem of collecting the revenue has probably thrown out of public employment.

6. The cultivation of waſte-lands will be much promoted by a liberal encouragement of ſugar-cane plantations, which anſwer beſt upon ſoils that have lain ſome ſeaſons unemployed.

7. The obvious good effects of this plan, with regard to the Company's intereſt, will deter Europeans from haſtily commencing expenſive ſugar-works, and embarking large

ſums

ſums of money in buildings, mills and plantations: and if it ſucceed, afford them a cheap method of obtaining this and every other native produce for exportation, deliverable at the port of Calcutta, or even on ſhip-board, on the moſt advantageous terms.

Should the Company hereafter deem it expedient to adopt tobacco or any other product as articles of inveſtment for Europe, this propoſed method of providing ſugar, if it ſucceed, will afford a ready and practicable precedent for collecting them.

Should the India Trade to this country be thrown open at any future period; reſponſible individuals would always be ready to ſubſtitute themſelves in the Company's trading capacity, for taking off this commodity at a fixed rate, and hypothecating

it to Government, as collateral ſecurity with their own bills (upon regiſtered ſhipping*) for any remittances of ſurplus revenue to Great Britain. This mode of advancing part of the value under ſuch ſecurity, is now beneficially practiſed in the article of Bengal indigo; and while it affords the Company a ſecure remittance at the exchange of 2s. $3\frac{1}{2}$d. the current rupee, has all the effect of a bounty in the encouragement of that branch of cultivation.

The reſources of Bengal are innumerable, and inexhauſtible. If, therefore, the India Trade ſhould be laid open, it will be no very ſanguine idea to indulge the hope of ſoon after ſeeing employed in it annually, inſtead of nine ſhips of ſeven thouſand and ninety-

* The outlines of a plan for this purpoſe, traced out in the year 1791, is added in appendix H. for the reader's conſideration.

five tons, taken up by the Company this year for Bengal, as many as ſhall make up the difference of Britiſh export freight, between the years one thouſand ſeven hundred and eighty-nine, and one thouſand ſeven hundred and ninety, which Mr. Chalmers ſtates at no fewer than eight hundred eighty-ſix veſſels of ninety thouſand one hundred and nine tons burthen ! ! !

CHAP. IV.

PROBABLE CONSEQUENCES OF ADOPTING THE FOREGOING REGULATIONS.

IT ſeems a conſideration of no little magnitude, to examine how far the opening this branch at all with India, may change the commercial ſyſtem of the empire at large. Not merely how far it may affect the property and capitals employed in our Weſt-India iſlands: that point, it is preſumed, had been previouſly determined, before Government reſolved upon equalizing the duty*. The public voice has called for, and approved the meaſure.

We are now to trace the probable conſe-

* Refer to note 1, chap. i.

quences

quences and effects of encouraging large importations of ſugar from the Eaſt-Indies.

Many people continue to doubt, how far it may be practicable, to obtain any conſiderable ſupply at all. But, if they will take the trouble of looking into the matter, ſufficient evidence will occur, to eſtabliſh the fact, that ſugar, if not indigenous, is at leaſt a plant ſo naturalized and congenial to the ſoil of Bengal; and that there are in it ſuch large tracts of uncultivated land, and people in ſufficient numbers ſo accuſtomed to the cultivation and manufacture of it in its firſt and marketable ſtate, that a very ſhort period only is requiſite for enabling that country to anſwer the demand of the whole of Europe.

And whoever ſhall attentively examine the preceding regulations, will clearly per-

ceive, that, under proper management, thoſe provinces are able to furniſh to any amount required, and at a *cheaper rate than any other country on the face of the globe*, without ſlavery or oppreſſion of any kind whatever.

How highly important, therefore, does it appear, to adopt the wiſeſt meaſures at the beginning, for placing this culture and commerce on the footing moſt likely to produce extenſive benefits to both the conquered and the mother country, with the leaſt poſſible injury to the intereſts of our fellow-ſubjects in the Weſt India iſlands!

In order to determine properly, it is neceſſary that all circumſtances be fully ſtated. The queſtion involves great national intereſts, moral, political, and commercial; it ought, therefore, to undergo the moſt candid and ample diſcuſſion.

The navigation of this kingdom is ſtated to have fallen off near one hundred thouſand tons in the year 1790. How far it may have recovered during the laſt twelve months, cannot yet be aſcertained.

Sugar, next to hemp and flax, is one of the moſt bulky articles imported on Britiſh bottoms *.

Before the diſturbances in St. Domingo, this article had been gradually riſing in price; a pretty ſure indication that the conſumption was fully equal to the ſupply from America. It has ſince riſen to an alarming degree.

Our own iſlands have been long threatened with a ſimilar convulſion. Should one happen, from what quarter can Europe ex-

* Moſt of our timber comes from Norway, in ſhips of that nation only.

pect to draw this neceſſary of life (for a neceſſary it is now become, equally with ſea-ſalt for our table), if not from the Eaſt Indies?

The laudable exertions of the ſociety eſtabliſhed for producing it in Africa, if crowned with a ſucceſs beyond the moſt ſanguine expectation of its warmeſt friends, can never, in this century, equal the growth of our ſmalleſt Weſt India iſland *.

The ſtate of government and cultivation in the Brazils†, the earlieſt ſeat of American planting of ſugar, tobacco and indigo,

* The iſland of Barbadoes is ſaid to have produced, between the years 1660 and 1760, hogſheads ſixteen thouſand, or twelve thouſand tons annually. This iſland is not larger than the Iſle of Wight.

Conſiderations on Sugar Trade, Baldwin, 1753, *p.* 27.

† See page 7. of ditto.

gives

gives no great encouragement to expect any large additional imports from thence.

How far Spaniſh America may furniſh beyond her uſual crops, it may be difficult to calculate.

The Dutch planters at the Cape, are oppreſſed by every baneful effect of jealous monopoly, and colonial tyranny. They neither exiſt in numbers ſufficient to be formidable, nor poſſeſs intelligence or Capitals competent to the purpoſe, even if the ſoil were proper for this branch of cultivation.

Our Government, then, would be without a ſhadow of excuſe, were they to paſs the preſent occaſion of improving the Britiſh Trade from the Eaſt Indies, and ſecuring, while in their power, the poſſeſſion of this

important

important branch of commerce and navigation.

It is much eaſier to retain than to acquire. We at this moment poſſeſs the means of ſecuring a lead in this commerce; other ſtates may be again * encouraged, if we relax, to attempt a recovery of it.

Away then with all myſtery or heſitation. Let every obſtacle be removed that interferes with the national intereſt, with the ſinews of our national ſtrength.—But let the meaſures of Government be maturely determined upon, and gradually developed. The object is certainly obtainable, if proper meaſures are adopted: but it is obtainable only, by allowing them time to produce their natural effects.

* Refer to appendix, A.

The

The late letters from India agree in reporting, that ſugar, in the month of Auguſt laſt, was to be had in any quantity. Mr. Law produces an account of an increaſe in one diſtrict (where it had met with encouragement), in one year, from 100 to 1000 begas*.

Sugar there, as here, (as hath been before obſerved with reſpect to ſalt) is equally a neceſſary of life, without which the natives can hardly ſubſiſt: they eat it with their victuals, drink it in their beverages, and ſmoke it with their tobacco. At the ſeaſon for ſupplying that metropolis of our dominions, and the uſual demand for exportation, which happened to be the time when theſe letters were written, Calcutta doubtleſs would contain a great quantity—a whole year's ſupply for home conſumption and exportation. The calls of a few foreign Euro-

* See Law's Riſing Reſources, p. 62.—Three begas of land make one Engliſh acre.

pean

pean ſhip-owners for one or two years back, joined to the ſucceſs of the ſamples brought hither ſince 1787, when the firſt Eaſt India ſugar made its appearance, and the high prices our London prices current exhibited to the merchants there, may have occaſioned ſome inconſiderable increaſe in the quantity brought down laſt ſeaſon to Calcutta.

But, if our Eaſt India Company ſhould require a loading for only three or four of their chartered ſhips, it would preſently be found, that the demand there, exceeded the ſupply at market. The immediate conſequence, every commercial man will perceive, muſt be ſuch an advance of price, as will render a ſpeculation in this article a ruinous one to the adventurers.

But this is by no means all the miſchief. Ships ſent out on purpoſe, muſt return with ſome-

ſomething; they muſt therefore load with this or ſome other loſing cargo. Sugar, therefore, would be enhanced, not only to the Company and the Foreign Trade, but to the Natives themſelves—and the cultivators, once taught to expect this high rate, would expect it hereafter. The farmers would take an immediate advantage of the ryots, and, inſtead of lowering, would riſe in their demand of extra rent for ſugar-lands. A ſteady, gradual increaſe in the demand for produce and manufacture, is the true criterion of flouriſhing commerce and national proſperity, and is always accompanied by a gradual, progreſſive augmentation of price in proportion.

The experience of all civilized countries has demonſtrated the fatal effects of any ſudden increaſe of price in produce or manufacture. In the latter, it renders workmen exorbi-

exorbitant in their demands for wages; and idle, becauſe they can live by labouring only a part of their time: it ſeduces the cultivator from his frugal habits of induſtry, and leads him into expenſive modes of living, and ſlovenly huſbandry. Merchants are tempted thereby into deep ſpeculations, and compelled to enlarge their Capitals.

Whenever a ſtagnation happens in the demand, or a fall in the price, either from rival ſupply, or any other cauſe whatever, ruin is the merchant's lot, and beggary the other's; and the country loſes for a time, a beneficial branch of its commerce and revenue.

Such may be the conſequences, if our Eaſt India Company too haſtily or extenſively enter into this enticing and popular ſpeculation. It is earneſtly to be hoped, that the

the Directors have either limited their price or their demand, or have hesitated embarking in it at all for the present; and that, if no better offer, they will have the candour to adopt some of the hints which are here humbly suggested for their information.

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

CLAIM OF RYOTS TO THE RIGHT OF FREEHOLDERS CONSIDERED.

THE admiſſion of claim in behalf of the ryots or cultivators of the ſoil, to be conſidered as the only freeholders of Bengal, has been ſtated in the ſecond chapter, as neceſſary to the ſucceſs of the regulations there ſuggeſted for a proper extenſion of the cultivation of ſugar in that country. This claim it may here be proper to examine.

Sir C. W. B. Rous, and moſt of the writers upon the landed property of India, have deduced the tenure of it from the ſovereign to the farmer only; and ſeem not to have given ſufficient weight to the conſideration of

of whom theſe ſovereigns were compoſed; although they concur in repreſenting them to have been a ſucceſſion of conquerors, of different religions and principles, each governing by a deſpotic ſyſtem of his own, which was dependant entirely on the temper and circumſtances of the prince on the throne.

The government, of conſequence, was rigid or mild, oppreſſive or benevolent, rapacious or moderate, according to the turn of mind or education, neceſſities or opulence of the conqueror himſelf, or of his immediate ſucceſſor.

Titles to landed property of any conſiderable value, derived from ſuch a ſource, muſt in their very nature, and in proportion to that value, be vague and capricious, without any ſettled principle or precedent; ſubject to be arbitrarily invaded by every ſuc-

ceeding conqueror: and, therefore, as Sir Charles W. has juſtly obſerved, conſiderations of equity and experience only, added to length of poſſeſſion, ought to be admitted as important, in deciding upon the eſtabliſhment of permanent titles to land under a government guaranteed by the Britiſh legiſlature.

In all theſe enquiries, little notice and leſs importance appears to be given to the moſt numerous and uſeful claſs of ſubjects, the ryot, or tiller of the ſoil. Though Mr. Grant begins his book with admitting them in their fulleſt extent, yet their titles ſeem hardly to have deſerved attention: nevertheleſs, if the true end of all civil inſtitutions be rather to ſecure the rights and happineſs of the many, than the opulence and authority of the few, ſurely the rights of this deſcription of people ought to have been aſcer-

aſcertained and eſtabliſhed with particular preciſion.

Had the enquiries begun below, inſtead of at the upper end of the chain—aſcended inſtead of moving downwards—inſtead of ſtating a capricious diſpenſation of property through favour from the monarch to his ſubject—had they admitted the dereliction of inherent rights of the people to the ſovereign—the chain of connection would have appeared much more intelligible to a mere Engliſh reader, and the natural dependancies of one claſs of ſociety upon the other might have been more readily traced, and more equitably eſtabliſhed in future.

The original juriſdiction of the ancient Hindoo government may with great appearance of plauſibility be ſuppoſed, like thoſe of Syria and Egypt recorded in Scrip-

ture, to have been purely patriarchal. Every trace left us of their primitive manners and habits of life carry with them a ſtrong reſemblance that tends to juſtify this ſuppoſition.

In thoſe remote ages of paſtoral ſimplicity, fixed property no where exiſted. The ſmall ſocieties, or rather families under direction of the elder moſt reſpected for wiſdom and experience, wandered, like the modern Arabs, from place to place, directed ſolely in their choice of a temporary reſidence, by the convenience of water and paſture.

But in the progreſs and improvement of civil ſociety, as arts and population increaſed, men became of neceſſity more confined to particular ſpots; and by long poſſeſſion acquired property in the ſoil, which

which they and their forefathers had cultivated and improved.

Such are the claims of the ryots of India at this day, and ſuch the only real titles to any landed property whatever.

The Hindoo rajahs may be conſidered originally to have been the patriarchs of that country, and in proceſs of time to have become its ſovereigns; and the zemindars, and other ſubordinate characters of this period, to have been in after times created by them, and to have held no other authority than that delegated to officers employed in collecting the contributions of the people, in proportion to the property they poſſeſſed for the neceſſary ſupport of Government.

It is ſomewhere mentioned to his honour, that one of the ableſt of the Mogul emperors made it a fixed principle of government, that no ryot ſhould ever be diſpoſſeſſed while he paid his full eſtabliſhed rent. Were this rule now admitted, the ryot muſt be acknowledged the only freeholder, and all waſte and abandoned ſpots of land become of courſe eſcheat, and lapſe to the ſovereign as lord paramount. The admiſſion of this doctrine would amazingly ſimplify the revenue-ſyſtem, without in the ſmalleſt degree weakening the title of zemindars and others to the poſts of collecting the quit-rents, or land-tax of the diſtricts of which they have been left in poſſeſſion. Induſtry is the conſort, and property the offspring, of civil liberty.—Admit the cultivators of the ſoil to an abſolute property in it, and to what they cultivate, and every ſtimulus to labour

ariſes ſpontaneouſly from the boon, if that can be called a boon, from whence all titles are admitted, by the ableſt writers on the ſubject, to have been originally derived.

CHAP. VI.

PRINCIPLES AND CAPITAL OF THE COMPANY'S COMMERCE.

IT is taken for granted, that Government is ſatisfied of the neceſſity which exiſts for permitting the Company to comply with the public call for importing ſugar from the Eaſt Indies.

They muſt therefore have maturely conſidered the remote, as well as immediate conſequences of ſuch permiſſion.

On the footing it is here propoſed to begin on account of the Company, the ſupply from Bengal will be gradual, certain, and productive of benefit. As it ſhall increaſe, the tonnage employed muſt alſo be augmented. If it ever ſhall acquire that importance,

portance, which circumſtances and paſt experience in another part of the globe at preſent encourage us to expect, may it not be ſuppoſed likely to become too great an object to be left under a monopoly?—It is ardently wiſhed that it may.

The Eaſt India Company have long been envied their excluſive privilege; but, generally, from miſtaken ideas of the benefits of their trade. The papers ſo candidly produced annually, of late years, before Parliament, confute every idea of their having been gainers, upon the whole, by their commerce *. Ever ſince their acquiſition of the territorial revenues, the Company has been in the ſame ſituation as an Iriſh gentleman of five thouſand a year, who, reſiding in this country, ſhould allow

* Vide Short Review, and the ſtatements exhibited in Appendix.

his ſteward in that to expend two thouſand of it in repairs and eſtabliſhments, and direct the other three to be laid out in the linen-manufactures of Colraine or Antrim, or the ſalt beef of Cork, to be ſold in England by his factors in the city.

The ſteward, perhaps a tolerable judge of the value of land, and the method of managing tenants, becoming thus ſuddenly a dealer in linen and proviſions, would fall into the conſtant blunder of thoſe who undertake what they do not underſtand, and would make his purchaſes accordingly.

If the rental of the eſtate by any good fortune ſhould increaſe, its lord of courſe directs the amount of his cloth and adventures to be augmented in proportion: and as he poſſeſſes little more knowledge (if ſo much) in directing the aſſortments proper for

for this market, than his agent abroad in the method of buying, bleaching, and ſhipping off, it may eaſily be computed what kind of a remittance would be realized from the eſtate.

Such, for many years, has been the commerce of the Eaſt India Company—it may indeed be ſaid, ever ſince they quitted their primitive character of merchants, and became a corporation of trading ſovereigns.

This will appear the leſs extraordinary, when it is found that the Company has actually been carrying on its commerce from the date of the excluſive charter, to the preſent time, *without employing any real Capital* whatever*, upon the circulation of its

* Whatever Capital the Proprietors have raiſed, has been immediately applied, or the greater part of it, as an aid to Government.

In

its own bonds, the ſale of annuities, or upon the anticipated income of its mortgaged eſtate *.

To juſtify this aſſertion, there only needs a reference to the repeated enquiries of the

In the year 1698 they raiſed 2, 800,000 l, by payment of 87 l. 10 s. per cent. on 3,200,000 l. and after paying 400,000 l. to the old Company for the dead ſtock in India, two millions of the remainder was lent to Government at 8 per cent.

In 1701 the intereſt was reduced to 5 per cent. and a new loan made at the ſame rate, of 1,200,000 l.

In 1744 another at 3 per cent. without any call upon the Proprietors, 1,000,000 l.

In 1729 a douceur was paid of 200,000 l. and the intereſt upon the 3,200,000 l. was reduced to 4 per cent. per ann.

In 1750 the intereſt on the whole loan, at that time more by a million than the whole nominal capital of the Company, and amounting to 4,200.000 l. was continued to Government at 3 per cent. the rate at which it now remains.

* Great part of the China, and nearly all of the purchaſes in India, have been made upon credit ſince the year 1780, and paid for either in bills in England, or in bonds or certificates bearing intereſt; all which were accepted on the ſecurity of the territorial revenues, not on their credit and property in a trading capacity.

alarmed proprietary into the ſtate of their affairs, and a peruſal of the reports of ſeveral committees of the Houſe of Commons appointed to examine them. It will there be diſcerned that neither the reports of proprietors nor committees, nor the different acts of parliament for inſtituting regulations and reform (ſuggeſted and paſſed, it muſt be ſuppoſed, at the requeſt of the Court of Directors), exhibit any proofs of intelligence, or capacity in that body, at all adequate to the adminiſtration of ſo important a truſt as they have held for above thirty years paſt.

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

RETROSPECT INTO THE ERRORS OF THE SYSTEM OF CONDUCTING IT.

IT might be thought harſh or invidious to attribute this ſeries of miſmanagement to the men; let us therefore look for it in the ſyſtem.

We ſhall there find, that, immediately after the acquiſition of the territory, the attention of the Directors was diverted from the calm purſuits of regular commerce, to the contemplation of that immenſe wealth which was expected to flow ſpontaneouſly into Leadenhall-ſtreet, from the revenues of the new acquiſitions.

A violent ſtruggle took place between the ſet of men in poſſeſſion, and thoſe who, to juſtify

juſtify their paſt conduct, and enſure ſucceſs to their future plans, wiſhed to obtain the adminiſtration of the Company's affairs.

Profeſſional qualifications ceaſed to be conſidered as eſſential in candidates for the direction. Men of different profeſſions, totally unconnected with the Company's intereſts or objects, intruded themſelves into it, by means frequently not the moſt allowable; and, in order to keep themſelves in power, every improper influence was for a long period exerted, to the ruin of the diſcipline of the ſervice, the diſcouragement of merit, and the total ſubverſion of all rule and ſubordination.

This muſt be allowed to be a true picture of affairs at home, until very lately.

Abroad, the rapid tranſition in the Company's

pany's affairs in Bengal, from impending ruin and extirpation to wealth and proſperity, as rapidly enriched thoſe few of the ſenior ſervants who ſurvived the Black Hole.

Unlooked-for affluence brought with it careleſſneſs of public duty, and licentious contempt of order and regularity.

The departments of commerce and revenue, and the ſuperintendance over the native adminiſtration of juſtice, all centred in the ſame perſons; moſtly young and inexperienced men, who had been educated for the ſervice upon its original footing of a trading company. Here, however, the reader has an opportunity of obſerving the juſtneſs of the obſervation, that great occaſions make great men. Some of theſe gentlemen have ſhewn a vigour of mind, and

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an integrity of heart, which do honour to the human character, and proved them equal to the occaſion.

The natural conſequences ſoon after appeared notorious It became neceſſary to tranſplant ſervants from the other ſettlements, to take the vacant ſeats of thoſe who had reſigned, or been diſmiſſed from the council. A ſet of thirteen *experienced factors* were ſent from England, to govern the commerce, with orders to increaſe the inveſtment in proportion to the ſuppoſed augmentation of the means for carrying it on. Theſe latter gentlemen, on their arrival, ſoon found it convenient to blend the character of merchant with that of ſuperviſor and judge, and became almoſt immediately incorporated with the other ſervants.

Of thoſe who went to Bengal from the other ſettlements, moſt of them were ſhortly after removed back again, on the plea of their having ſuperſeded the regular eſtabliſhment.

The contagious example and ſucceſs of our arms on the banks of the Ganges, inſpired and encouraged ſimilar attempts at conqueſt on the coaſts of Malabar and Coromandel; and had, in a proportionate degree with their extent, the ſame ruinous effects upon the ſyſtem of conducting the Company's trade, which in every part of India became more and more neglected.

The ſuperviſors ſent out in the year 1770 had, no doubt, ſtrict orders to make this branch an early object of their attention: but the loſs of them all in the Aurora fri-

gate, again put off the period of this neceſſary reform.

In the mean time, our exports to India dwindled to a mere trifle. Our commerce with China, though better conducted, becauſe really carried on more upon the principles of trade, was chiefly ſupported upon the credit of individuals, and with ſpecie ſent out thither from England.

The Directors were conſtantly preſſing for larger India inveſtments than the manufactures were able to furniſh *; and the go-

* So little knowledge did they poſſeſs of the extent of the applicable funds for inveſtment, and of the capacity of the diſtricts for furniſhing goods, that the annual indents, for many years, exceeded by one-half the amount which the Bengal government were able to appropriate; and in many inſtances the number of pieces demanded from an aurung was ten times that ever manufactured, and in much the ſame proportion beyond what could have been ſold to profit, had the order been completed.—See Abſtract Statement, in Appendix, D.

vernment abroad imprudently encouraging the call, and accepting whatever goods were tendered for the ſupply, to the general debaſement of the ſtandard fabrics, and increaſe of their firſt coſt.

This indeed would have been in ſome meaſure the caſe, if the allotments had remained on a lower ſcale, from the effects of blending all public employments in the ſame perſon, as already ſtated; but ſtill more ſo, from the frequent changes of gentlemen from one ſtation to another, before it was even poſſible for them to have become tolerably converſant in the local duties of any one of their three occupations.

The Directors did not long remain ignorant of the abuſes which had crept into their commercial ſyſtem, nor of the alarming debaſement of the India fabrics. About the

year

year 1772 their letters breathed ſentiments of great diſpleaſure at the conduct of the Bengal council; and ſome members of it were removed on that account: but the functions of revenue and commerce continued even then in the ſame perſons. Profeſſional ſuperintendants had about this time, as on former occaſions, been ſent over, for the improvement of the ſilk and cotton manufactures; and much might have been expected from the abilities and experience of the gentlemen fixed on, *had they been properly ſupported:* the neglect of one ſingle precaution, it may fairly be inferred, prevented many of the good effects of their appointment. None of the profeſſional ſilk or cloth ſuperintendants, ſince Mr. Clerembauld, were admitted within the pale of the civil ſervice. It will not be readily conceived what injury this omiſſion has done to the purpoſes of their appointment, which, as it carried an implied cenſure upon the

ſervice in general, might naturally have been expected to excite jealouſy and diſtruſt; and, therefore, required every poſſible ſupport of the perſons entruſted with it, for rendering them reſpectable in their private characters, and reſponſible and independant in the line of their public duty.

Sufficient care was not taken of either; accordingly, we have ſeen them on their arrival reduced to the ſituation of ſubordinate, inſtead of ſuperior officers, in their reſpective departments; inſtead of holding the controul under council, acting in the lower claſs of the executive branches, without the ſmalleſt portion being left them of that diſcretional authority which had been conferred by indentures, and was expreſsly intended to be applied for their own credit and the benefit of their employers.

This degradation became the more mortifying

tifying to them, and was the more injudicious in thoſe who ſent them out, becauſe theſe gentlemen had frequent opportunities of perceiving others, certainly not better qualified than themſelves, promoted to civil rank in the ſervice; ſeveral of them merely upon the plea of that profeſſional knowledge and experience which it had been the employment of their own lives to acquire; and of which the want of equal intereſt with their common maſters, ought not certainly to have formed a ſufficient conſideration to deprive them.

By the regulating act of parliament, which inſtituted a ſupreme council and court of judicature, the commercial was firſt ſeparated from the other branches of adminiſtration; but the inferior ſervants employed, continued to be taken from one into the other, as intereſt or inclination dictated.

The ſuperior ſervants, or members of the board of trade, were directed to be choſen according to ſeniority in the civil ſervice, and to ſucceed in rotation. Experience has ſhewn this to have been a wrong meaſure; though doubtleſs ſuggeſted by a liberal deſire of compenſating the ſenior ſervants for their being cut off from ſucceeding in future to ſeats in council. The ſalaries fixed for them were much inferior to the emoluments of their juniors in ſeveral other departments, and to thoſe from whence they themſelves were immediately promoted. Their own former ocupations in political and financial ſtations had little tended to qualify them for their new employment. Nor indeed ought it to have been expected, that men, whoſe lives had been ſpent in ſtudying the principles of the governments of the countries connected with ours, or developing the intricacies of the revenue ſyſtem of our provinces, ſhould all of a ſudden become experi-

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enced merchants, and judges of mulmuls and raw ſilk.

The former of theſe errors was ſhortly after corrected, by reducing the number, and increaſing the value, of ſeats at that board; and the ſecond regulating act left the choice of perſons to fill them with the governor general. But neither took place, till experience of all the miſchiefs which ought to have been expected from ſuch an arrangement had actually followed.

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

IN CONTINUATION.

THE reſources afforded by the revenue to the commerce, which, for ſome years previous to the late war with Hyder, had been ſuperabundant, ſoon after its commencement, failed altogether. The Company, having no Capital of their own, and having been accuſtomed to rely on the revenues for the ſupply of all their commercial funds, were unable to afford the ſmalleſt aſſiſtance from England; and *yet perſiſted in demanding large inveſtments from abroad.* A fatal and ruinous expedient was adopted to furniſh the ſupply. Their cargoes were provided upon contracts, at credit, payable in paper inſtead of money: at firſt in bills on England, and afterwards in bonds and certificates,

certificates, which, though bearing an intereſt of eight per cent. per annum, continued all through, and long after the war, to ſuffer a heavy diſcount. The evils of this expedient, the beſt that offered at the time, do not ſeem to have been apprehended at home till their conſequences were ſeverely felt; and perhaps at this moment, may not be fully underſtood by many. To thoſe who do comprehend them, it will be matter of ſurpriſe to be informed, that the inveſtments ſent home at that time deſerved and obtained the approbation of the Directors and of the buyers at the Company's ſales: that the fabrics in general were well kept up, and the nett value received for them by the contractors was very little, if any thing, above the rates given at this preſent time for the ſame commodity. Theſe are facts deliberately aſſerted, and which can be proved by unqueſ-

unqueſtionable evidence. Though the ſyſtem was defective, yet there was certainly ſome merit in the conducting that part of it in which the adminiſtration at home had no ſhare whatever.

This partial retroſpect of the late commercial ſyſtem of the Directors, is here given in order to ſhew ſome of their errors in principle and practice, which will in a great meaſure account for the conſtant and increaſing loſs the Company have incurred by this part of their commerce; and that the miſmanagement abroad, to which only this loſs has been generally attributed, was the natural and inevitable conſequence of the miſtakes and miſconduct of the former adminiſtrators at home; who, if they had really meant an earlier reform, ought to have taken the ſame pains, and might have obtained the

ſame

ſame full information, which have enabled the preſent court of Directors to effect ſuch great and beneficial alterations abroad.

The few inſtances here produced, are ſuch as principally contributed to the general neglect of the true intereſt of the Company. Numberleſs others might be adduced, if they were at all neceſſary to prove this poſition.

It would be in the laſt degree illiberal to attribute all theſe abuſes to the want of knowledge and attention in the Directors of that period, though many of them can be aſcribed to no other cauſe: or to withhold, in this place, the teſtimony which ſuch conduct deſerves, that of late, indeed, ſince the accounts of the commerce as well as revenue have been annually laid before Parliament, greater attention appeared to have been

been paid to the trade than heretofore; and the effects of that attention are viſible in the inproving ſtate of the profit and loſs account of the Company *.

The reform, however, has only been completed abroad; and was effected there, more by the integrity and perſevering firmneſs of Lord Cornwallis, than by any reſpect for the example which had been heretofore ſet the ſervants in India by their ſuperiors and fellow-ſervants in Leadenhall-ſtreet.

* To illuſtrate the truth of this remark, ſee Appendix, F. for a profit and loſs of five years trade, between 1784 and 1789, and G. for one of the year 1790-91.

CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

EXPEDIENCE AND PRACTICABILITY OF DISSOLVING THE PRESENT COMPANY.

MUCH the ſame ſtruggle for power, and intrigue for confining the direction to the *ariſtocracy of the houſe-liſt*; the ſame ſecret influence of a powerful combination of ſhip-owners; the ſame expenſive home-eſtabliſhments, continue, at the preſent hour, to burthen and embarraſs the real intereſt of the proprietors. Moſt of the perſons employed in it are attached to the ſyſtem by long intimacy, and by ſuch a variety of complicated intereſts, connections, and dependencies, that, notwithſtanding there are others among them, of the firſt ability, unſhackled with theſe trammels, yet it may well be doubted whether it is even poſſible

poſſible for the exiſting Company, upon a ſeparation of the revenues, ever to return to its primitive character of a trading corporation, with equal advantage to that of a new aſſociation, founded upon the enlightened principles of modern commerce, and unencumbered with the prejudices of the old ſyſtem, or with the evil conſequences of long perſeverance in error and difficulty. No one will deny, that there exiſts at this moment a ſpirit and intelligence in the merchants of Great Britain, with competent funds at their command, for framing and conducting a commerce of this magnitude, without depending upon Government for a Capital, who will be ready to undertake either the whole China and India trade together or ſeparately, with or without the excluſive privilege, *provided all reſtraints upon India importation be totally aboliſhed.*

If Parliament are of opinion that a char-

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ter is at all neceſſary, and that the preſent ſhould be aboliſhed, the meaſure to be taken is obvious, and practicable without danger, at an inconſiderable expence.

The preſent Company's nominal capital is 5,000,000 l. on which a dividend of 8 per cent. is now-received, or 400,000 l.

Government owe the Company 4,200,000 l. at 3 per cent. intereſt, and pay annually 126,000 l.

The proprietors, independant of the territorial revenues, admit themſelves to be inſolvent.

Parliament has repeatedly decided, that theſe revenues are the property of the State: they now lapſe to it *unconditionally*.

Government has promiſed them a liberal conſideration, whenever the revenues are taken away.

Inſtead, therefore, of entering into account with the Company, for the value of forts and garriſons, floating or fixed ſtock, factories, or marine eſtabliſhments; if Parliament will vote only to inſure the proprietors a continuance of their preſent dividend, which will coſt two hundred and ſeventy-four thouſand pounds per annum, all the world will regard it as a moſt liberal arrangement, worthy of the nation who makes it: not the liberality of the lion dividing his prey, nor the liberality of a mere ſtateſman diſpenſing his patronage; but a fair, equitable compenſation, for the riſks which the corporation has ſhared with this country, in acquiring and preſerving the three provinces. The value of them appears adequate

quate to recompenſe both. The occaſion of doing ſo now preſents itſelf; and the neceſſity, as well as juſtice, of the meaſure, muſt appear obvious to every man who will reflect upon the ſubject.

In proportion to the extent of the Capital, and the privileges of the new Company, they will require more or fewer of the buildings and ſtock of the old, for which they of courſe may be expected to pay a reaſonable price: ſuch others as can be diſpoſed of, may be ſold by public auction, and both go a great way in reimburſing Government for this compenſation, if the ſums they produce do not entirely repay it.

By ſuch an arrangement, and the Government taking all the debts upon itſelf, thoſe of the trade as well as of the territory, the creditors will readily be induced,

on better ſecurity being given, to accept of lower terms for the liquidation.

In granting a dividend of 8 per cent. to the proprietors, the preſent high price of the Government funds operates to the diſadvantage of the State, inaſmuch as it will be paying an extravagant intereſt upon five millions, the amount of their capital ſtock. But, in funding whatever of the Company's debts ſhall be transferred to England, it operates the contrary way upon a much greater ſum.

The Company are now paying from 8 to 12 per cent. on their debts abroad, and 4 per cent. on that which runs at intereſt in England. Government may at once reduce the latter to three; and, very ſoon after the accounts of the concluſion of the preſent war ſhall have been publiſhed by authority, will find no difficulty in obtaining the conſent

ſent of the India creditors to accept of five, until as much of it as ſhall be thought expedient ſhall be paid off. In this point of view, it ſurely becomes both ſafe and expedient, for an adminiſtration ſo completely in poſſeſſion of the public confidence, to loſe no longer time in waiting for that event; ſince every protraction of a meaſure univerſally admitted to be neceſſary, occaſions ſo great a loſs of intereſt and credit upon a Capital, for which it ſeems agreed that the nation is to be ultimately reſponſible.

Many and greater advantages appear likely to reſult to Government from the eſtabliſhment of a new corporation, than a continuance of the preſent; ſome of which perhaps were in contemplation, when a miniſter aſſerted laſt year, and repeated in this, that India was more likely to aſſiſt England

with its finances, than to call upon it for ſupport.

All the abuſes of the old ſyſtem will be done away, without perſonal inveſtigation or puniſhment.

All the funds ariſing from ſale of the quick and dead ſtock, cargoes, and commercial buildings, which can be converted into money, beyond the actual Engliſh debts of the Company, will go towards redeeming ſo much of the public debt of the nation.

All diſcuſſion and diſagreement with the old proprietors about the value of this property, and the expence of a commiſſion of liquidation for adjuſting the buſineſs, will be totally unneceſſary.

The terms granted to a new ſet of proprietors,

prietors, whether under an exclusive charter, or a mere power to trade corporately, may be settled, as the lotteries are, by acceptance of those proposals which hold out the most beneficial and safe conditions.

If it be considered that 274,000 l. per annum, the proposed compensation, will be too heavy a burthen for the kingdom to take upon itself, in addition to that of the accumulating debt upon the revenues, it may be made a stipulation with the new proprietors, that part of it shall be paid by a small additional duty upon tea, which will now bear an increased impost. Much of the remaining sum may be expected to arise from the customs upon sugar, rum, and the other new branches of importation, which will every day open upon us from the East Indies.

But granting that Parliament immedi-

ately take the Company's affairs out of their hands, it may very properly be aſked, how are they to be adminiſtered until an agreement takes place with a new ſet of proprietors? It is incumbent upon us to be ready with a reply.—A plan purſued upon ſomething like the following outline, may perhaps be immediately adopted without riſk or inconvenience.

Declare all the property, debts and demands, of, and upon the Company, to be thoſe of the ſtate: and, for the preſent, continue all the ſervants in their ſtations and appointments; but liable to all the penal ſtatutes to which the officers of Government are already ſubject in caſes of malverſation or breach of truſt.

Separate entirely the department of commerce, and place it immediately under the controul

controul of the board of trade and plantations, to whoſe department it naturally belongs; and let that board act independantly of the India board of commiſſioners, in liquidating all commercial accounts, carrying on the trade, and effecting a ſettlement with the new corporation.

CHAP.

CHAP. X.

TENDENCY OF AN ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE SUGAR TRADE FROM EAST INDIA, TO COMPEL THE THROWING OPEN THE TRADE ALTOGETHER. ADVANTAGES TO BE EXPECTED FROM THAT MEASURE.

THE relative ſituation of the Company at this criſis with the kingdom at large, will, it is hoped, juſtify this long digreſſion.

We left the growing reſources of Bengal (for from theſe only of our India poſſeſſions, have we any reſources adequate to our eſtabliſhments) in a train of increaſing, from one ſingle article, ſugar, to a magnitude

tude which muſt ſtagger and aſtoniſh thoſe who have not before conſidered the ſubject.

When it is alſo conſidered, how many other unexplored branches of native produce have been ſtifled, and are ſtill locked up by the narrow influence of an excluſive privilege, and what an extent of Britiſh navigation would have been now employed, had the trade been laid open, every liberal mind will regret, that the apparent neceſſity of its continuance has ſo long ſanctioned this excluſive charter of the Eaſt India Company. Till of late no opportunities have occurred of fairly inveſtigating the queſtion; but it is hoped and expected, that the period is now arrived, for giving it a full and candid diſcuſſion.

Already the mounds of this monopoly have been ſapped and weakened, by the admiſſion of individuals to a conſiderable

ſhare of the import trade, under expreſs licence of the company itſelf, who by this permiſſion have tacitly acknowledged the inſufficiency of their own capital, for carrying on the trade to an adequate extent, for loading back even their own chartered ſhipping.

However diſaſtrous it may have proved in the outſet, to thoſe who availed themſelves of this licence, yet it will ſoon appear, that individuals will find means of employing it to more advantage, than the corporate body can, or have done, ſince the year 1757. The acute induſtry of people, where their own intereſt is at ſtake, will always go beyond the official zeal and activity of the moſt faithful ſervant of another, eſpecially of a public body, conſtituted like our Eaſt India Company.

The Company's duty of ſeven per cent. upon this private trade and privilege, already amounts

amounts to too large a ſum * to be haſtily abandoned. In the preſent ſtate of their affairs, it may be highly inexpedient to do ſo. If the permiſſion is to be continued, through the Company, burthened as it is with this duty, with high freight, and enormous fees of office, time will ſanction that as a right, which at firſt was an indulgence; and the legiſlature will at length perceive the hardſhip impoſed upon a great part of his majeſty's ſubjects †, in favour of a ſmaller number.

The ſhipping ‡ neceſſary for bringing home ſugar and gruff, if that trade ſucceeds to our wiſhes, will be found to increaſe. Let us then cheriſh the pleaſing hope, that the period is faſt approaching, and that

* On a medium to nearly 70,000l. per annum.

† Refer to Appendix, E.

‡ Refer to Appendix, H.

many of us may yet live to ſee the day, when the capital and credit of a Harley himſelf ſhall be incompetent to the building, and the docks of a Parry too ſmall to careen, the ſhipping employed in the Britiſh commerce with Eaſt India. Let every man contribute his ideas for the improvement of the miniſter's plan for producing theſe national benefits now ſaid to be under deliberation; and let us candidly and cordially aſſiſt, to give it full credit and effect. In this ſpirit, and with theſe ſentiments, have the obſervations, now ſubmitted to the reader, been ſuggeſted.

Let the philanthropy of a Smith baniſh all narrow, ſelfiſh principles; but let the philoſopher in trade remember, that he is a *Britiſh* merchant. It may undoubtedly be *expedient* to continue the whole excluſive privilege for ſome years longer; but this is certainly the moment, for giving its commerce

merce ſuch a turn, as ſhall render it ſafe and proper, hereafter, to throw open all the reſources of India indifferently to the nation at large, and to our ſiſter kingdom on the other ſide of the Britiſh Channel.

It is impoſſible that miniſters can be ignorant of the variety of theſe reſources; and whenever their importance is juſtly calculated, and the advantages of employing them become generally known, it will be as impoſſible as impolitic to leave them much longer hampered by the ſhackles of monopoly, or ſtifled by the incapacity of any exiſting company, to furniſh the funds for collecting them. The reſources of a great body, like the Company, for obtaining aſſiſtance when neceſſary for extending their ſpeculations, are infinitely fewer in number, than thoſe of an independant merchant of credit and known capital. This individual

acute

acute attention will find out, and ſucceſsfully proſecute, numberleſs channels, which are either below the notice, or eſcape the obſervation of the managers of ſuch a corporate body of traders.

What then muſt be the comparative extent and advantage of any ſuch corporate body, againſt the collective intelligence and capitals of a whole nation of merchants? All that Mr. Adam Smith ſays of the advantages of a diviſion of labour in manufacture, may here be applied to a diviſion of monopoly in commerce.

CHAP. XI.

DISADVANTAGES TO THE REVENUES ABROAD, AND TO THE STAPLE MANUFACTURES OF BENGAL.

AND yet, to take the other ſide of the argument, a very ſerious objection will occur, whenever the India trade ſhall be laid entirely open—an objection, which our friends of Lancaſhire and Scotland will gladly find ſtarted here. It is this: that * throwing open the excluſive trade in muſlins and cotton cloths will inevitably debaſe, if not entirely ruin, the ſtaple manufactures of Bengal; and therefore, to a certain degree, injure our revenue from that quarter.

This point it is highly neceſſary ſhould

* For a more extenſive view of this ſubject, and its influence upon Britiſh manufactures, ſee Extract of a Letter written in the year 1790; printed in Appendix, B.

be well underſtood: it, therefore, calls for ſome explanation in this place.

The annual purchaſes of cotton and ſilk, piece goods made for the Eaſt India Company in Bengal, have amounted, ſince the year 1757 *, from forty to one hundred lacs of current rupees—400,000l. to a million ſterling.

Theſe goods in general have been bought by advances to the weavers, and, conformable to ſtandard muſters, or ſample pieces, lodged at the export warehouſe in Fort William, with which ſamples all the goods are compared before package for exportation.

Whatever complaints the Directors have ſeen occaſion to make, from time to time, of the ſuppoſed debaſement of their inveſt-

* Vide Appendix, C.

ments

ments from India; it has yet appeared, to the credit of thoſe intruſted with their diſpatch to Europe, that the buyers in Leadenhall-ſtreet, have ever been juſtified in relying upon the ſtandard fabric and dimenſions of the goods packed in Bengal; and that foreigners were, and are, able to ſend over their commiſſions with ſafety from year to year, in confidence that the marks upon the packages *would faithfully indicate the quality and denomination of their contents.* It is this ſingle circumſtance more than any other which has preſerved our aſcendancy in this trade, over that of the other foreign companies, whoſe ſamples have all fallen into our hands; and over private adventurers to India, who have no means of applying to them, and whoſe method of conducting their buſineſs obliged them moſtly to purchaſe what our Company rejected. A weaver, working for the latter,

knows his cloths are to be ſubmitted to a ſevere compariſon, and applies materials and attention accordingly; and his attention, with that of the workmen in moſt of theſe fabrics, operate as much as the quality of the material upon the value of the joint production.

The preſervation therefore of theſe ſtandards, and the continued obligation upon the greater number of people employed in manufacturing cloths, to keep up to them, have been the means of preſerving to that country its hitherto unrivalled excellence, or ſuperiority: the withdrawing ſuch a call would very ſhortly occaſion its loſs.

An opinion may here be hazarded, though with infinite heſitation and diffidence, that our manufacturers here are no more prepared to avail themſelves, *all at once*, of ſuch an advantage (if it ſhould now be

be thrown in their way), than the merchants of the kingdom, of the commerce at large, if the excluſive charter ſhould now be abruptly taken from the Eaſt India Company. To pave the road for both ſeems therefore to be the preſent buſineſs.

It appears, then, that there are other objections to the total abolition of the Company, beſides that of the neceſſity of providing for a ſafe remittance of the ſurplus revenues of Great Britain.

On that head, the writer of theſe obſervations humbly preſumes that it would be even practicable, at this moment, to depend upon ſecure and certain means of realizing them, without leaving the excluſive trade from India any longer in the hands of the Company. The recep-

tion which theſe ſheets ſhall meet with, may determine him to lay them alſo before the public.

APPEN-

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX. (A.)

A ſhort Account of the firſt Introduction of Sugar into America: taken from a publication in the year 1753, entitled "Conſiderations on the Nature of the Sugar-trade." Printed for Baldwin, Paternoſter-row.

THE canes, which produce that ſweet liquor of which ſugar is made, grow in all the four quarters of the globe; and in three of them ſpontaneouſly. They were certainly known to the ancients, though what we call ſugar was not; for the manufacturing the ſweet juice of the cane into that form was the invention of the Arabians, who beſtowed upon it the name it bears, calling it, in their own language, *ſuccar*. It was brought by the Moors into Spain, and cultivated by them with the greateſt ſucceſs,

ſucceſs, in the kingdoms of Granada, Valencia, and Murcia.

In the two laſt it is made in great perfection, though not in great quantities, at this day; for though it is computed that the Spaniards import to the value of at leaſt a million of pieces of eight, in foreign ſugars, yet this is owing entirely to an error in government, and the inſupportable tax of thirty-ſix per cent. which has already reduced their ſugar-works very low; and, notwithſtanding all the remonſtrances that have been made upon this ſubject, may very probably in proceſs of time put an end to them.

About the beginning of the fifteenth century, the Spaniards introduced the manufacture of ſugar, and very probably the canes, into the Canary Iſlands, where they throve exceedingly; producing great wealth

to

to the inhabitants, as well as a very large revenue to the crown. In 1420 the infant Don Henry of Portugal, the great promoter of diſcoveries, directed ſugar-canes to be carried from the iſland of Sicily to that of Madeira, where they proſpered ſo happily, as that, within a diſtrict of nine miles in compaſs, the fifth, which that prince reſerved to his military order, amounted to fifteen hundred hogſheads of ſugar, each of a thouſand weight; and conſequently the whole produced ſeven thouſand five hundred ſuch hogſheads; which in thoſe early times, and when the veſſels employed in trade were ſo ſmall, was thought, and with great reaſon, a very conſiderable improvement.

7.500. Hds

The ſame nation, having diſcovered and begun to plant the country of Brazil in America, turned their thoughts to the cultivation of the ſugar-canes, *which they found naturally*

naturally growing there, and proſecuted their endeavours with ſuch effect, that, chiefly from the profit they derived from this commodity, they began to form to themſelves very extenſive views; believing that from the *advantages of ſituation, climate, ſoil, and rivers*, they might be able to carry their commerce higher than any other nation; to which predilection in favour of Brazil, *ſome authors of good authority have aſcribed the decline of their affairs in the Eaſt Indies*. But theſe hopes, whether well or ill-grounded, were fruſtrated by the invaſion of the Dutch. The Spaniards, having the like views with the Portugueze, by the direction of Ferdinand the Catholic, carried ſugar-canes from the Canaries to the iſland of St. Domingo, where they were firſt planted by Pedro de Atença, and the firſt ſugar-mill was erected by Gonzales de Veloſa in 1506: but finding the natives unfit for theſe labours,

they

they introduced negro ſlaves; and thus we have traced the hiſtory of this commodity and manufacture, *which had flouriſhed from time immemorial in the* EAST to its introduction in the WEST-INDIES.

At what time ſugar was brought into England, it is difficult to ſay; but that it was in common uſe in 1466, appears from the record we have of the feaſt given by Dr. George Nevil, when he was inſtalled archbiſhop of York, where, it is ſaid, "there were ſpices, ſugared-delicates, and wafers plenty." In that very old treatiſe, entitled, The Policy of keeping the Sea, the author, inveighing againſt the uſeleſs things brought by the Venetians from the Indies, adds, "that they furniſhed but very few of *the neceſſaries of life* except ſugar." In ſucceeding times we had this commodity, as may be collected from our old writers upon trade,

trade, from Spain, Sicily, Portugal, Madeira, Barbary, and other places; which, as the uſe of it increaſed, may very probably be ſuppoſed to have created a deſire of obtaining ſome country for ourſelves, in which it might be cultivated in a degree ſufficient for our conſumption.

The famous Sir Walter Raleigh, by his voyages to South America in the reign of queen Elizabeth and king James, had raiſed ſo high an opinion of the riches of Guiana, that, after his unfortunate death, the project of planting that country was purſued by Sir Olyff Leigh, who ſent his brother thither; and afterwards by other gentlemen, who at length deſiſting from their purſuit of gold and ſilver, were content to form plantations there; and after occupying and deſerting ſeveral places, at length fixed upon the mouth and banks of the river Surinam, which,

which, though very little notice has been taken of it by our writers, ſeems to have been the firſt ſugar colony we ever had, and to have grown by degrees to more importance than perhaps it has been judged proper to preſerve in remembrance, as this country was ceded to the Dutch by the treaty of Breda. It may however be proper to take notice, in ſupport of what has been ſaid, that it appeared, a few years before it was given up, to have had ſixty thouſand inhabitants, *two-thirds* of whom were *whites*, who made there great quantities of ſugar, ginger, indigo, and cotton; *and by allowing all nations to live and trade there freely, without any civil, religious, or commercial reſtraint*, employed about two hundred ſail of ſhips, amounting in the whole to upwards of fifteen thouſand tons. But though the country was given up, it was ſtipulated that the people ſhould have

full

full liberty to withdraw with their effects; and, in conſequence of this, the greateſt part of the Engliſh retired to ſome or other of our plantations.

According to ſome accounts, a ſhip ſent by Sir Olyff Leigh to the country of Guiana, firſt touched at Barbadoes; but according to others, this iſland was diſcovered by a ſhip of Sir William Curteen's, returning from Fernambuco, in Brazil, about the beginning of the laſt century. It afterwards, as we ſhall more than once have occaſion to mention, was granted by king Charles the Firſt, by patent dated 1627, to the Earl of Carliſle, together with other iſlands, upon pretence that he had been at great expences in ſettling them. The inhabitants ſpent near forty years in raiſing indigo, ginger, cotton, and tobacco, and then bethought themſelves of ſugar-canes, which were brought

brought hither from Brazil; and this in the very ſhort ſpace of *ten years* ſo changed their affairs, that the planters, from being poor, grew to great opulence, and, either importing or purchaſing great numbers of negroes from Africa, extended their plantations, not more to their own emolument than to that of their mother-country; and it was owing to the ſudden and ſurpriſing fortunes they made, that the *value of the ſugar-trade came to be underſtood*, and cheriſhed as one of the moſt beneficial in which the Engliſh had ever engaged; in conſequence of which, ſeveral of the moſt eminent planters were by king Charles the Second created baronets, that it might appear the temple of honour was open to thoſe who added to the ſtrength of the nation by improving the arts of peace, as well as ſuch who ſignalized themſelves in her defence in a time of war.

Thoſe who were ſettled in our other iſlands, led by the example of the people of Barbadoes, introduced the manufacture of ſugar likewiſe into them, and Jamaica being added to our dominions, produced a vaſt augmentation of ſugar territory; ſo that, during the latter moiety of the laſt century, *we greatly exceeded all the other nations* who had hitherto dealt in this commodity; and no new, formidable rivals as yet appearing, we carried it on with ſuch advantage, as to export great quantities of ſugar even into thoſe countries from which we had imported this commodity heretofore, particularly into the Levant, where, by ſelling our ſugars cheaper than they could make them, all the plantations formerly ſettled in the Turkiſh dominions gradually declined, and, except in Egypt, at laſt wore out.

But, in conſequence of our making ſuch immenſe quantities of ſugar, it became

requiſite to take every method of promoting its conſumption at home, in order to the ſupport of our colonies; the foreign market having only a certain extent, the commodity was in danger of becoming a drug if this expedient had not been found to keep up its price: this however clearly ſhews what a mighty change was made in our circumſtances in reſpect to this very valuable article of commerce.

The French came ſomewhat later than we into theſe parts of the world, as will appear even from their own writers, and were not ſo early in making ſugars, though they found the canes actually growing in the iſland of Martinico; nor did they make any great progreſs for many years after they began to plant ſugar, notwithſtanding they had the aſſiſtance of many of the Dutch, who took ſhelter in their iſlands after the

Portugueze drove them out of Brazil. This was owing to a great variety of cauſes, but more eſpecially to moſt of their iſlands remaining a long time in private property, being transferred from one proprietor to another; their deſire of graſping more iſlands than they could occupy, their depending too much upon a military force, and their not having a ſufficient number of negroes. Many of theſe errors were corrected in time; but then they had new difficulties to ſtruggle with; ſo that after all, though they did proceed but ſlowly, and made little or no figure in the ſugar-trade till after the concluſion of the treaty of Ryſwick, when the nature and conſequences of commerce began to be thoroughly underſtood, and vigorouſly proſecuted under the auſpice of Colbert, who wiſely conſidered the acquiſition of trade as a more ſolid foundation for power than the acquiſition of territory, and *who*

was

was very careful in drawing his lights from the moſt experienced merchants, not only in France, but in all other countries in Europe, which he again farther improved, by ſubmitting all the informations they gave to the ableſt politicians.

The acquiſition of part of Hiſpaniola was another very great, though not an immediate advantage to the French; for they acquired it gradually, and not without conſiderable reſiſtance, which, as it hindered them from planting, ſo it prevented, at leaſt in a great meaſure, the apprehenſions that otherwiſe would have ariſen from ſo great a conqueſt. After they had effectually fixed themſelves there, they quitted their ſugar plantations in the iſland of Tortuga, which had ſucceeded very well, but appeared inſignificant in compariſon of what was expected from St. Domingo, to which the in-

habitants removed. The war, on account of the ſucceſſion to the crown of Spain, gave a temporary check to their improvements; but at the ſame time it was beneficial to them in another point of view, as it delivered them from any further diſputes with the Spaniards; and though we were already jealous of the progreſs of their ſugar colonies, yet we were ſo much occupied by the war in Europe, and the efforts we made in America *were ſo indifferently conducted*, that, though they did ſuffer, yet ſtill they ſuffered much leſs than otherwiſe they might have done if we had been more attentive to our intereſts, and to the favourable opportunity we then had of effectually preventing them from becoming, as they have ſince been, our moſt formidable rivals. By the treaty of Utrecht, indeed, we acquired the ceſſion of thoſe quarters which they poſſeſſed in the iſland of St. Chriſtopher's; but

the

the French planters removed from thence into their other iſlands; and, as they did not want land, this ceſſion of their part of St. Chriſtopher's was no diſadvantage to them, though it has certainly proved a very conſiderable benefit to us.

From the concluſion of the peace of Utrecht, they have been much more attentive to their intereſts in this particular, have thriven accordingly, and have had many other incidental advantages. Their iſlands were *full of people* when they *began* to ſet in earneſt about their ſugar plantations. Their government has been very attentive to their intereſts, *more eſpecially in point of duties*, which, notwithſtanding all the exigencies of their ſtate, have ever continued low, which has been a great encouragement to their planters. Beſides this, many wiſe regulations have been made in reſpect to

ſending *white people*, as well as black; and great encouragements have been given, not only for the ſupport of their induſtry, but alſo for ſupplying them with negroes. But poſſibly with all theſe advantages they never could have carried their improvements ſo high, if it had not been for the aſſiſtance given them by the inhabitants of *our* northern colonies, in taking off *their rum and melaſſes*, which was a benefit their own government could not give them, and a detriment to us, which, though early diſcerned, and loudly complained of, never could be effectually redreſſed.

The Dutch came firſt into America with an armed force, and with a ſtrong fleet attacked Brazil, being in the hands of the Spaniards, who were at that time maſters of Portugal; made a great impreſſion there in 1624, which they proſecuted with ſuch effect,

effect, that they became maſters of ſix of the fourteen captainſhips into which that country is divided; which they held about thirty years, and in which they made *annually about twenty-five thouſand cheſts of ſugar.*

After the Portugueze had thrown off the Spaniſh yoke, they endeavoured to expel the Dutch from Brazil, which at length, in conſequence of the long war the republic had with the Engliſh, they accompliſhed; though the ceſſion was not made till the year 1661, when, amongſt other advantageous articles, the ſtates obtained the ſum of eight millions of florins, which they condeſcended to take in ſugar, and other merchandiſe, under the title of an equivalent. In the firſt Dutch war in the reign of Charles the Second, they took from us the country of Surinam, which was ceded to them in exchange for New York, by the

treaty

treaty of Breda in 1667; and that ceſſion confirmed by the treaty of Weſtminſter in 1674, during which period, and for ſome time after, that is, *till the French king ſuppreſſed his Weſt India Company*, the Dutch availed themſelves of moſt of the ſugars made in the French iſlands, in which commerce they are ſaid to have employed an hundred ſail of ſhips. To their colony of Surinam they have now added Brebecie, and Iſaquepe, upon the ſame continent; and though the whole *of this country is very marſhy and unwholeſome, yet they are thought to make a quantity of ſugar there, not much inferior to what they brought from Brazil while it remained in their hands.*

Beſides theſe colonies which are on the continent of South America, they have likewiſe the iſlands of St. Euſtatia and Curacoa, &c. places that would be very

inſig-

inſignificant in the hands of any other nation; but as they manage them, they are very advantageous; for being a kind of free ports, to which the ſhips of all the European nations reſort, they avail themſelves in time of peace by a ſmuggling trade to a very large amount, and in time of war they are ſtill greater gainers by a contraband commerce. The vaſt magazines of all kinds of European and Eaſt India goods which they have conſtantly well ſupplied in theſe iſles, and the conveniences they afford to the ſhips of all nations that reſort to them for the ſake of trading with each other for commodities, and in a manner not permitted any where elſe, brings them at all times a great reſort of veſſels; by which the Dutch inhabitants are vaſtly enriched; and by keeping their duties low, and taking the advantage of all ſorts of trade, they ſend home very conſiderable returns annually.

But

But beſides all this, they have always drawn, and ſtill continue to draw, immenſe advantages from their art *in refining ſugar*, particularly at Amſterdam, to which port they brought amazing quantities formerly, not only from Barbary, Portugal, and Madeira, but alſo from the Levant and Egypt, as they ſtill do from their own colonies, from England, France, Brazil, and, when it can be done with profit, from their ſettlements in the Eaſt Indies, particularly in Java, where they make vaſt quantities. Theſe refined ſugars, by means of the great rivers in Germany, the Weſer, the Elbe, the Rhine, the Mein, and the Moſelle, they vend through all that extenſive and populous country, and exchange them for various kinds of raw commodities, which are afterwards manufactured in their own provinces; and thus by their perpetual attention to the wants of all their neighbours, their dexterity

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in turning thoſe wants to their own advantage, their indefatigable induſtry, and the cheapneſs of their navigation, they are much greater, and alſo much ſurer, as well as more conſtant gainers by ſugar than is generally imagined, or, if this matter was more fully explained, would be eaſily credited.

The Danes have been long in poſſeſſion of St. Thomas, an iſle that lies the moſt to the weſt of any of thoſe that are ſtyled the Virgins. It is, in truth, little more than a very high mountain, with a narrow ſkirt of flat ground round it, not quite twenty miles in circumference, but with a tolerable good port; and that, when once entered, ſafe and commodious. The uſe they formerly made of this iſland, was much the ſame that the Dutch ſtill make of St. Euſtatia and Curacao; that is, they admitted ſhips of all nations, and took no exceptions at any kind of trade.

trade. In this they went even beyond the Dutch; or rather, the Dutch carried on in this Daniſh port that ſort of commerce with privateers, which they did not think it quite ſo ſafe to carry on in their own; and by this means left the odium of ſuch practices upon the Danes, and drew the profit ariſing from thence to themſelves. But things are now quite altered. When the French quitted Santa Cruz, which lies five leagues from St. Thomas, the Danes entered into poſſeſſion of that iſland, which is much more conſiderable in extent, being thirty miles long, and nine or ten broad; and though there are eminences, yet there are no mountains. Upon thoſe riſing grounds they have abundance of different ſorts of fine timber; but the water is bad, and the air unwholeſome. Both theſe iſlands were in poſſeſſion of the Daniſh Weſt India Company till very lately, when his preſent Daniſh majeſty, *having bought*

bought up their actions, diſſolved that company, and gave every ſort of encouragement that could be deviſed or deſired for the improvement of theſe ſmall iſlands. In conſequence of this, the ſides of the great mountain in the before-mentioned ſmall iſle of St. Thomas, are at this time ſo thoroughly cultivated, that it yields between two and three thouſand hogſheads of ſugar annually; and this laſt-mentioned iſland of Santa Cruz, under all its diſadvantages, is in a very fair way of being alſo very completely planted, though chiefly by Britiſh ſubjects; and by this means Denmark will be fully ſupplied with ſugar for the future, and will alſo have ſome to ſpare for foreign markets.

By thus tracing ſuccinctly the hiſtory of ſugar, or rather the trade in ſugar, we ſee through how many different hands it has paſſed.

paſſed. We may alſo, without any great difficulty, diſcern the cauſes that have produced thoſe alterations. It will from hence appear, that it is not the bare power of cultivating the canes, *which is very practicable in different parts of Europe*, and it has been ſhewn that they grow naturally in the three other parts of the globe, nor yet the ſkill of manufacturing it, which will preſerve this trade to any one nation. From thence it follows, that the hopes of monopolizing ſugar, and, in conſequence of this, ſelling it at an advanced price, is a mere commercial chimera; the very attempting of which would very probably transfer it back to ſome of its former poſſeſſors, or, which is full as likely, fix it effectually in the hands of the inhabitants of Holland, who owe their ſucceſs in commerce to their ſteady adherence to a very ſimple and plain maxim, " That " thoſe who can ſell the beſt commodity " cheapeſt,

" cheapeſt, will always command the mar-
" ket."

There might be many more points of great utility deduced from a larger hiſtory of this very lucrative commerce; but attempting that would too much ſwell this little work, in which what has been ſaid was principally with a view to introduce a very ſuccinct enumeration of the advantages that ariſe from the ſhare we have in the ſugar-trade; for without having a general idea of the whole, it is ſimply impoſſible to judge with any degree of certainty or preciſion of any of its parts; as the particular benefits that ariſe from them are chiefly derived from the relation they bear to the whole; and therefore the ſureſt, as well as the cleareſt way of rendering theſe viſible, is to point out and illuſtrate the ſeveral circumſtances by which our ſugar co-

lonies prove, in various reſpects, ſerviceable to Great Britain, and thereby amply repay the protection they receive from, and at the ſame time merit the continual attention that, for her own ſake, ought to be paid by them to, their mother-country: for without thoroughly underſtanding, and keeping conſtantly in our minds, this natural, this inſeparable connection of intereſts, we ſhall be liable to continual miſtakes; as in truth all the errors into which we have ever fallen in this reſpect, have been owing to no other cauſe than that of ſuppoſing, in conſequence of ſome plauſible pretences, that there might be a difference between the intereſts of this nation in thoſe colonies, and the intereſts of our countrymen ſettled in thoſe colonies, which can really never happen: ſo that, in conſequence of our being deceived by ſuch appearances, the wrong meaſures into which we have been ſo deceived

ceived have been always equally dangerous, and in ſome inſtances fatal to both.

The inhabitants of thoſe of our American iſlands which, from their principal commodity, or rather manufacture, are denominated the ſugar-colonies, are compoſed of whites and blacks, or, in other words, of Britiſh ſubjects and African ſlaves. It is from the ſkill and induſtry of the former, ſupported by the painful and indefatigable labour of the latter, that not ſugar only, but various other commodities alſo to an immenſe value, are raiſed in thoſe countries, and exported to different parts of the world. It is the cheapneſs of the labour of theſe poor people, who likewiſe procure from thence the greateſt part of their own ſubſiſtence, *that thoſe coſtly and extenſive works, which are neceſſary in a ſugar plantation,* are derived, as well as all the other neceſſaries

that it requires, and whatever elſe contributes to the ſupport, conveniency, and the affluence of our countrymen in theſe iſles, who are their maſters: and indeed it is to this circumſtance of the cheapneſs of their labour, that the ſugar-trade, with regard to Europe at leaſt, is in a great meaſure confined to America, as, on the other hand, its being confined to America is the principal cauſe of its affording ſuch a variety of advantages, and more eſpecially of its contributing ſo highly to the ſupport of navigation, and, in conſequence of that, to the maintenance of naval power.

APPENDIX. (B.)

Extract of a Letter written in 1790: *occaſioned by the frequent Application of the Mancheſter and Glaſgow Manufacturers to obtain certain Reſtrictions and Limitations of the Cotton and Silk Piece Goods, uſually imported by the Eaſt India Company.*

—WITHOUT a total deficiency of all public ſpirit, and of every liberal principle, it is impoſſible to avoid acknowledging and applauding the indefatigable, perſevering induſtry with which the manufacturers of Great Britain are ſtruggling to rival and excel the cotton fabrics of India. The prodigious abridgment of labour obtained by their ſpinning-machines, and the improvements of the

looms at Mancheſter and Glaſgow, have inſpired moſt ſanguine expectations of ſucceſs.

No man wiſhes better to the intereſts of his country than myſelf, or would be more averſe to ſuggeſt any obſtacle to its proſperity. I could eaſily point out the difficulties our workmen have ſtill to overcome; but for the preſent ſhall confine myſelf to examine whether benefit or injury would be likely to happen to the ſale of Britiſh muſlins and calicoes, were the ſupplies from India prohibited, greatly reduced, or diverted from our market altogether.

I am perfectly aware that India piece-goods have gradually enhanced in price, and been debaſing in fabric, for ſome time paſt. This may as well be acknowledged to have been

been really the caſe ever ſince the recapture of Calcutta in 1757.

But it has not therefore followed, that they have ſold here at proportionably lower prices. The auction-rates have been, and always will be, governed by the extent of the demand and ſupply.

My countrymen have, no doubt, already informed themſelves of the medium rates at which every article has ſold which they mean to imitate. Its coſt was immaterial to them, ſo long as the commodity was certainly to be brought to market, and ſold here to the higheſt bidder.

If a Britiſh weaver can bring piece-goods for ſale, upon equal or lower terms, and retain a living profit by his labour, his end is

anſwered, and the ſtate reaps the benefit of his ſkill and induſtry.

But as theſe rates are liable to conſtant fluctuation, he will carefully examine what have been the higheſt, and what the loweſt rates in a certain period; and eſtimate thereby whether he may expect to ſubſiſt for a length of time upon the probable medium profit.

All this, it appears, has been maturely inveſtigated. The raw material will be conſtantly ſupplied for the future, and improvements continue to be made for applying it to the beſt advantage.

I have ſeen a pamphlet *, printed about

* An important Criſis in the Calico and Muſlin Manufactory of Great Britain.

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two years ago for private circulation, in which it is ſanguinely aſſerted, that our weavers *are entitled to more than a fair opportunity of entering into competition with thoſe of India*; *becauſe the revenues of that country, remitted hither in manufacture, inſtead of proving a benefit, are, on the contrary, a ſerious misfortune to us.*

Upon which there occur to me the following obſervations:

The taſte and perfection of Britiſh and fancy goods may have ſecured a conſtant demand; the rage of the mode for all kinds of muſlins and cotton fabrics, may warrant and take off an increaſe of ſupply; and the influence of the manufacturing towns encourages a renewal of the application to Miniſtry for a reſtriction or prohibition of India piece-goods: but a total, or conſiderable

able abrupt ſtoppage of them, though either might raiſe the price of our own for the moment, I think myſelf able to demonſtrate would be the occaſion of more ruin and diſtreſs than the bankruptcies of 1787.

The firſt conſequence would be felt abroad. The foreign companies, and adventurers eſtabliſhed on the banks of the Ganges, knowing that the Engliſh had ſtopt their annual purchaſes, would ſuſpend their own, till the manufactures ſhould have fallen to ſo low a rate, that they ſhould be able to carry them to the continent of Europe upon terms infinitely *lower than any Britiſh competitor could come to market.*

A glut of goods there will firſt follow the ſuſpenſion of the Company's proviſion, from the neceſſity of employing the raw material which had been prepared for its manufacture,

manufacture, and upon the conſequent fall in price, a ſcarcity will enſue; for the weavers muſt leave off when they can no longer ſubſiſt by their profeſſion; and the ſpinners, who generally cultivate no more of the cotton than they conſume, finding the demand ceaſe, will pluck up their capaſs, or cotton plant, and ſow grain and vegetables in its ſtead, for ſuſtenance of themſelves and families.

The ſpinner and weaver having nothing to exchange for money, muſt neceſſarily ſubſiſt upon the product of their gardens, or of the lands they may undertake to cultivate, and pay their quit-rents thenceforward in kind out of the ſurplus production. Whereas at preſent the chain of intercourſe is kept up between the ryot and manufacturer, by a barter of the neceſſaries of life produced by the one, for the money received

received in payment of merchandiſe manufactured by the other.

The great maſs of the people of India wear very few clothes themſelves: moſt of the lower claſs manufacture their own, at intervals between the ſeaſons of ſowing and reaping their grain.

The weavers by profeſſion depend almoſt entirely upon foreign demand, and require advances before they can purchaſe the thread for beginning the proceſs. Few of them have any ſtock beforehand, or are able to diſpenſe with a ſupply of work for a few months only.

A diſappointment, therefore, reduces the family to miſery and diſtreſs, and cuts off all expectation, not only of that government receiving the land-tax due from the

weavers

weavers themſelves, but from the ryots alſo, who regularly ſupplied them with proviſions while they had money to give in exchange.

I agree perfectly with the author of the *Important Criſis*, that, when any preference ſhould be ſuffered to exiſt, the manufacturers of the mother-country ought to have the ſcale turn in their favour. I muſt alſo accede entirely to his opinion, that there are juſt and equal rules for encouraging fair competition, which affords infinite advantage to a ſtate, and improvement of its manufactures. The ſpirit with which he has aſſerted the rights of Britiſh manufacturers of cotton cloths, does honour both to his head and heart; at the ſame time his demand of a complete poſſeſſion of the home market for Britiſh cottons, appears both unreaſonable and impolitic.

He ſeems not ſufficiently aware of one inſuperable objection to the whole of his reaſoning againſt imports of an occaſional ſurplus of goods abroad; which is this: having been manufactured, they muſt be brought to market. Had this market been ſhut to them, the owners muſt have either ſold at an under-rate to foreigners, or have ſent them to be diſpoſed of on the continent of Europe, on ſtill lower terms than they have produced at Leadenhall.

In this caſe, not only the price at the Company's ſales would have been affected in a greater degree than he ſtates to have happened; but the evil he himſelf complains of, in the name of the Britiſh weavers, would alſo have been increaſed.

Again, the India revenues are certainly worth more to Great Britain than *the amount*

of

of the raw material of goods remitted hither in manufacture.

In the firſt place, they afford conſiderable aid to our cuſtoms and exciſe.

2dly, An employment of the national marine, and a ſchool for ſome of the firſt navigators the world can boaſt of.

3dly, The poſſeſſion of them keeps down the other maritime powers, by excluding them from theſe reſources.

4thly, It already ſupplies Great Britain with ſome raw materials for its own manufactures, and is capable of affording many more.

5thly, It levies a tribute upon the Continent, in proportion to the ſum paid to us for their purchaſes of India goods; without

out which the balance of trade would alter by an equal amount, and which, if not ſupplied by us, would be fetched by their own ſhipping.

Indeed I have always calculated in the groſs, that the national ſtock of this kingdom has been annually increaſed to the amount of the groſs ſales of India and China goods, after deducting what has been ſent abroad towards paying for them, and expended in acquiring and defending our territories there. I conceive this to be a ſhort and correct mode of appreciating the value of our connection with that country *.

For

* This propoſition has been lately confirmed by Lord Hawkeſbury's declaration in the Houſe of Lords, that "our manufactures have called for more goods, than "they have raw materials for working up."

The object, therefore, is to find out a method of obtaining

For enabling that country to pay any revenue at all, the manufacturers muſt find employment — that employment can only be continued by a demand for its product. The queſtion then is clearly this, whether as much of that product as poſſible ſhall be brought to Europe on Engliſh bottoms, and pay freight, duties, commiſſions, and charges to this kingdom, or to its rivals in Eaſt India commerce? I conceive there can be no difficulty in pronouncing for the former.

While Eaſt India imports are obliged to be fairly ſold by auction to the loweſt bidder, at one open market, and at ſtated periods, there ſurely does exiſt a fair and politic competition between Britiſh and India

taining the raw material on terms low enough to enable us to make uſe of it to profit, and in the mean time to ſupply the market with the deficiency wanted, at the ſmalleſt poſſible coſt to this country, by drawing it from thoſe tributary or dependent upon our own government.

goods, which affords opportunity to benefit by every proper advantage which the former derives, from an ample ſupply of the raw material, and the immenſe abridgment of labour in its machinery. To go farther, and either limit the foreign imports below their preſent quantity, or prohibit them altogether, would anſwer no purpoſe whatever, except throwing the reduced quantity *at a ſtill lower price* into the hands of Dutch, French and Daniſh competitors.

Happily for the manufacturers abroad, we now know that they are at length emancipated from the neceſſity of working at any fixed price againſt their inclination. This humane decree is moſt certainly an *important* and happy *criſis* for them. It ſeems alſo to promiſe no ſmall benefit to their brethren of this country, as it will produce, in a few years, a proof how low each ſpecies of goods

goods can be made *abroad*, to afford the maker and the exporter each a livelihood.

Till this ſhall appear, I muſt ſtill continue to think that our enterpriſing countrymen are proceeding too rapidly, and are actuated by much more ſanguine expectations, than the event will probably juſtify.

Good government, while it cheriſhes this patriotic energy, will always continue to check its exuberance, by keeping in view all the poſſible bars to ſucceſs.

While India muſlins and calicos ſhall be fairly purchaſed, and openly brought to this market, the Britiſh weaver will have a compaſs to ſteer himſelf by without riſk, and to point his induſtry to productive imitations; or, which will be ſtill more beneficial, to ingenious *ſubſtitutes*.

I cannot reſiſt enforcing upon his mind the importance of prefering the latter. Imitation of any article, though ever ſo exact, even if improved upon the original, is only bringing an additional ſupply of the ſame kind to market; whereas the invention of a ſubſtitute conſtantly acquires the preference given to novelty, and often induces a demand for both.

The different ſpecies of muſlin and calico at this day made abroad, though they are ſomething debaſed in fabric, are almoſt univerſally of the ſame kind with thoſe imported by the firſt adventurers round the Cape. Whereas, we at home have the opportunity of varying ours *ad infinitum*; of leading the wearer through all the labyrinths of fancy, or catching immediately every caprice of the mode.

If it be true, as I have every aſſurance and reaſon to believe, that they have already ſpun finer yarn in Scotland than any employed on the Company's fabrics at Dacca or Santipore, in the proportion of 240 to 163, *and that this thread will bear manufacture*, there can be little doubt of their ſoon producing finer muſlins than are brought home; and thus they will get poſſeſſion of the ſuperfine as well as the fancy branches, upon both which there is no doubt of their being able to put their own value.

They already enjoy the advantage of receiving ample ſupplies of the raw material from India itſelf, and all other quarters, without paying any duty, while the Company are charged 15 per cent. on all muſlins, and from 37 to 46 per cent. upon the coarſer cotton cloths.

The public ſpirit of the nation is laudably giving a preference to the produce of its own looms, which it is the buſineſs of our own people to retain; by every poſſible attention to preſerve, vary, and perfect their fabrics of all the different articles which afford a profit to the maker.

But, to attempt to exclude India piece-goods at this early period, which our ladies might perhaps think ungenerous or ungrateful, would very probably make it faſhionable to wear no other, and thus open a freſh road to ſmuggling; which would carry off double the ſum now paid for every piece of foreign muſlin worn in Great Britain.

The Britiſh weaver need be under no apprehenſion that individuals trading in piece-goods occaſionally, under the Company's licence, will long continue to bring what ſhall

ſhall yield a loſs inſtead of a profit. I have elſewhere ſhewn, that ſome late ſpeculations which have given great alarm, were the neceſſary expedients of perſons who found themſelves loaded with what they could not ſell abroad; or the raſh adventures of unexperienced people, who erroneouſly calculated upon profitable remittances, and have ſuffered ſeverely by the experiment.

No danger can be expected again from this quarter.

It ſhould be recollected, that the Company's cloths are made from ſtandard muſters or ſamples; that the weaver's price has been long fixed, with little variation; and therefore, that while an Indian inveſtment, to the amount of only a million prime coſt, ſhall continue to be annually provided, very

inconſiderable reductions will be made in the rate given for it by the Company; whoſe purchaſes will of courſe influence the price of what is bought there for other markets.

Whereas, if the Company's demand ſhould ceaſe, not only the goods on hand at the time would be thrown into foreign markets at an under price, but the neceſſity of ſubſiſtence would at length force as many of the weavers, as could find employ, to continue ſupplying thoſe markets upon much lower terms than they are at preſent obliged to pay.

And while the low rate of produce afforded profit to the importer, no funds would be wanting to furniſh the foreign demand with India fabrics without ſtint or limitation;

limitation; ſo as effectually to exclude thoſe of this country from the continents of Europe and America, at any profit whatever.

The preceding arguments have been principally applied to the Britiſh manufacturer; to the Britiſh merchant will be obvious, both the advantage and neceſſity of India goods for framing *aſſorted cargoes* for foreign markets. As long as India commodities are in demand, he *muſt* have them for that purpoſe, or loſe not only ſo much of his trade as their individual amount, but moreover, that of all the other articles which are the immediate or cheaper product of the country which ſupplies what he cannot, and which elſe it would have been his province to furniſh.

Inattention to this moſt important maxim

maxim has often loſt a nation very beneficial branches of its commerce: ours is too intelligent and clear-ſighted to forego thoſe advantages it has long been in poſſeſſion of, from attention to this ſingle circumſtance.

APPEN-

APPENDIX. (C.)

ABSTRACT ſhewing the Value of Remittances in Merchandiſe from BENGAL to GREAT BRITAIN, on Account of the EAST INDIA COMPANY, between the Years 1757 and 1788-9 inclusive.

ABSTRACT of Cargoes dispatched by the BENGAL Government to ENGLAND on Account of the EAST INDIA COMPANY, including Package and Boat-hire, exclusive of Factory and Establishment; from 1757 to 1764.

	Ships.	Redwood Maunds.	Saltpetre Maunds.	Bales.		Value.
1757	3	2,700	18,000	2,709		23,56,310
1758	4	3,600	24,000	4,803		36,65,618
1759	6	5,100	37,400	4,887		37,64,134
1760	4	3,600	7,708	3,275		26,04,980
1761	4	4,215	44,286	3,626		31,72,000
1762	5	5,760	34,650	3,559		30,20,805
1763	4	3,150	20,100	4,008		33,38,000
1764	3	2,700	27,000	3,344	2,759,630	
	Deduct from Ship Bute, returned and loft -				309,141	
						24,50,489
	33	30,825	213,144	30,211	Cur. Ru.	243,72,336

ABSTRACT

ABSTRACT of Cargoes dispatched by the BENGAL Government to ENGLAND, on Account of the EAST INDIA COMPANY, including Package and Boat-hire, exclusive Factory and Establishment, from 1765 to 1784.

	Ships.	Bales.	Tons.	Piece Goods and Raw Silk.			Total, including Charges, Merchandise, Crs.		
1766-7	6	6,497	2,687	48,20,411	14	9	50,18,200	0	0
1765-6	5	4,706	2,117	37,58,937	12	0	38,75,320	0	0
1767-8	6	7,639	3,285	55,80,087	2	3	58,51,894	2	9
1768	8	8,509	3,343	62,88,815	11	9	65,98,100	0	0
1769	7	6,368	3,257	53,65,921	0	6	56,45,500	0	0
1770	8	8,235	4,203	76,65,873	13	3	80,43,150	0	0
1771	9	8,677	4,189	73,21,493	0	0	80,03,083	0	0
1772	6	6,459	3,422	52,98,722	8	9	56,28,400	0	0
1773	5	6,006	2,524	55,30,996	5	0	58,11,381	0	0
1774	6	8,238	3,981	79,68,090	9	3	83,35,500	0	0
	66	71,334	33,008	Current Rupees			628,10,528	2	9
1775	6	6,368	3,416	69,08,217	11	0	72,42,400	0	0
1776	7	9,192	4,288	96,18,100	0	0	97,23,800	0	0
1777	9	9,629	5,131	103,11,221	13	3	108,40,565	5	0
1778	9	11,382	6,622	124,20,792	6	6	131,54,460	8	6
1779	3	4,173	2,167	45,10,009	15	3	47,75,418	7	3
1780	6	8,270	4,277	86,94,462	13	6	93,83,410	0	0
1781	3	4,284	2,187	40,34,158	9	6	44,74,352	0	0
1782	4	5,392	3,565	57,81,675	9	0	62,98,300	0	0
1783 17 Ships 1 Packet	18	21,778	12,760	184,41,317	15	0	211,70,133	0	0
1784	13	10,933	7,159				104,41,195	0	0
	78	91,401	51,572	Current Rupees.			975,04,034	4	9

Every ship carries 13 tons, St. Helena stores.

N. B. The bales are included in the tonnage, and the indigo chests among the bales, with 15 tons privilege from the year , and 50 tons since, and 80 kentledge throughout.

The tonnage of salt-petre to Bombay, and the half cargo to Fort St. George, are comprehended the three last years; but none of the supplies to Bencoolen or China.

ABSTRACT

ABSTRACT Amount of Cargoes ſhipped from BENGAL at different Periods ſince the Year 1757.

Between					
1757	and 1764-5.	243,72,336	0	0
1765-6.	1774-5.	628,10,528	2	9
1775-6	1784-5.	975,04,034	4	9
*1785-6	1788-9	303,36,204	0	0
Current Rupees		2,150,23,102	7	6

* From an account laid before the Houſe of Commons, and ordered to be printed the 24th March, 1790.

APPEN-

APPENDIX. (D.)

ABSTRACTS of the Amount of Inveſtments directed to be provided annually at BENGAL between the Years 1765 and 1783-4 incluſive; together with the Sum annually allotted for that Purpoſe by the Government there, and the Receipts of Goods in Conſequence.

ABSTRACT of Piece Goods and Raw Silk ordered annually by the COURT of DIRECTORS, the Allotments formed thereon, and the annual Receipts at the Warehouse in FORT WILLIAM, from 1765 to 1774.

	Order of the Directors.	Allotment.	Receipts.	
1765.	68,50,000	66,78,600		39,57,300
1766.	68,50,000	45,03,000		47,66,186
1767.	93,03,000	48,00,000		54,16,734
1768.	137,34,000	48,00,000	65,07,423	
Ready Money.	- -	Piece Goods	1,53,648	
				66,61,071
1769.	172,02,000	58,00,000	54,43,082	
Ready Money.	- -	Piece Goods	7,89,840	
		Raw Silk	6,57,596	
				68,90,518
1770.	168,79,700	45,00,000	44,94,676	
Ready Money.	- -	Piece Goods	14,41,622	
		Raw Silk	4,61,401	
				63,87,699
1771.	158,64,200	55,17,000	58,83,137	
Ready Money.	- -	Piece Goods	7,09,520	
		Raw Silk	2,06,855	
				67,98,512
1772.	163,99,300	53,20,000	- - -	52,83,934
1773.	198,92,400	57,03,000	57,46,840	
Ready Money.	- -	Piece Goods	3,01,350	
				61,48,190
1774.	177,44,900	62,80,000	83,78,390	
Ready Money.	- -	Piece Goods	8,702	
		Raw Silk	4,76,150	
				88,63,242
Totals.	1407,19,500	539,01,600		611,73,386
Medium of ten Years.	Cr. 140,71,950	Cr. 53,90,160	Crs.	61,17,338

ABSTRACT

BSTRACT of Piece Goods and Raw Silk ordered annually by the COURT of DIRECTORS, the Allotments formed thereon, and the annual Receipts at the Warehouse in FORT WILLIAM, from 1775 to 1785.

	Order of the Directors.	Allotment.	Receipts.					
775.	162,01,900	67,81,372				69,36,927		
776.	178,94,200	81,25,000				77,49,374		
777-8.	165,68,400	97,50,404				102,99,522		
778-9.	183,86,944	126,21,944				120,19,098		
779-80.	176,85,500	143,89,335				115,54,355	6	
780.	182,17,200	94,795,186				99,50,837	4	9
781-2.	155,43,301	71,68,301				49,35,947	5	6
782-3.		30,00,000	65,92,151	15	8			
	Ready Money	and Salt-petre.	9,85,246	7	3			
						75,77,398	6	11
783-4 *.	1st Allotment.	70,80,000	74,91,089	9	3			
mentation	- -	31,52,000						
	Ready Money	Piece Goods.	15,68,825		3			
	Do.	Salt-petre.	23,314	10	9			
		Dutch Goods.	18,19,324	10	9			
						109,02,553	15	
		Total Crs.				819,26,013	6	2
		Medium of ten Years.				81,92,601		
		Medium of twenty Years.	Crs.			71,54,970		

* For these two years the amount of the orders was not calculated.

APPENDIX. (E.)

Eſtimate Value of Britiſh fixed Property in Bengal, in the year 1785.

CALCUTTA.

THE average aſſeſſment for the town of Calcutta ſince the eſtabliſhment of the commiſſioners of the police, amounts to

Sicca Rupees 1,93,156

Collected 1,90,000

Which ſtates the year's rents to be

Sicca Rupees 30,40,000

The value, at 6 years purchaſe 182,40,000

In pounds ſterling, at 2s. 6d. the Cr. Sicca Rupee - £. 2,280,000

It is reckoned that two-thirds of this property

property belong to European inhabitants, or their heirs at law.

This tax extends only to the ancient boundary of the place, excluding the garden-houſes, and all the new buildings at Chyringey; which it is but fair to eſtimate at an equal ſum with all the black property within the limits.

State therefore Britiſh property, in and near Calcutta, to be	£.
of the value of - -	2,280,000
Fourteen ſilk-works -	
Three ſugar-plantations	125,000
Fourteen indigo-plantations	
Private buildings, at ſubordinates only - - -	45,000
Pounds ſterling	2,460,000

This eſtimate is greatly under-rated; for, in the firſt place, the loweſt rents are taken by the aſſeſſor, who is frequently impoſed

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on by the inferior claſs of Europeans; and from this rate is deducted ten per cent. for repairs, as well as ſuſpenſion from the tax upon all houſes reported to be empty.

If we add to the fixed property of Britiſh-born ſubjects, the ſums lent by them on Company's bonds, and employed in diſcounting Treaſury orders, it will appear, that the total of Britiſh property, excluſive of that employed in trade and ſhipping, exceeds the capital ſtock of the India Company.

APPEND

TATE of the Profit and Loſs Account upon the Impo
Taken from the Papers laid before the HOUSE of

Dr.

				£.	No. of References.	
1785. March.	To goods unſold, value 3,230,663 l. at half, reference No. 1.			1,615,331		
		China. No. 2.	India. No. 3.		1785.	1
1784-5.	To cargoes ſhipped from China and India	642,559	1,211,788	1,854,347	1786.	2
1785-6.	Ditto — — —	1,112,512	768,089	1,880,601	1787.	2
1786-7.	Ditto — — —	1,893,971	939,561	2,833,532	1788.	2
1787-8.	Ditto — — —	2,008,521	844,828	2,853,349	1789.	3
1788-9.	Ditto — — —	1,691,118	1,015,642	2,706,760		
			£.	13,743,920	1790.	
	To caſh for tea purchaſed on the Continent, No. 4.			1,684,731	1 March.	4
				15,428,651		
	To five years commercial charges abroad, at 210,000 l. per ann. — — — —			1,050,000		
	To one year's intereſt on 13,743,920 l. at 8 per cent. —			1,099514		
			Sterling £.	17,578,165		

No. 1. ſee No. 7. and 8. } of 17th March, 1790.
and 3. 4. } 31ſt March.
No. 2. do. No. 1. 25th March.
3. 9. 24th.
4. 7. 17th.
5. and Abſtract A.
No. 9. No. 1. include value, 442,342 l. of the tea purchaſed.

And 4. makes paid in all	1,853,206
Deduct, due 1 March, 1785,	1,684,75
Makes ut ſupra £.	1,684,731

	No
1785.	1,
1786.	7.
1787.	
1788.	
1789.	
	6

* This head
from 1,302,704

]

D I X. (F.)

mports of the East India Company for Five Years.
se of Commons in the Years 1789 and 1790.

Cr.

eferences.			China.	India.	£.
.	1	By Sales between 1ſt March, 1785, and 1ſt March, 1786. — — —	£. 2,357,158	£. 2,290,210	4,647,363
.	2	Ditto to do. 1786-7.			4,666,554
.	2	Ditto to do. 7-8.			4,874,614
.	2	Ditto to do. 8-9.			4,256,518
.	3	Ditto to do. 9-1790.	2,631,959	1,785,329	4,417,288
		Total groſs Sales in five years £.			22,862,342
.	4	By Goods unſold, value 3,972,337 l. at half — — —			1,986,168
		Total ſales, and coſt of remainder £.			24,848,510

Deduct for cuſtoms, freight, and charges.

	* Cuſtoms.		Freight and Demurrage.		Charges of Merchandiſe.		Total.	
	No.		No.		No.			
5.	1, 2.	£. 574,641	5.	£. 1,017,160	5.	£. 2,78,841	£. 1,870,642	
6.	7.	537,452	6.	883,001	6.	359,673	1,780,126	
7.		465,384	6.	819,848	6.	414,522	1,699,754	
8.		506,175	6.	951,405	6.	327,823	1,785,403	
9.		483,204	6.	849,680	6.	336,757	1,669,641	8,805,566
							£.	16,042,944
	6	By proprietors of private trade, for the ſame period —						318,068
		Total nett proceeds, and coſt of remainder — —						16,361,012
		Loſs upon five years imports — — —						1,217,153
							Sterling £.	17,578,165

1. Reference, No. 1. and 2. of 31ſt March, 1790.
2. Mr. Dundas's Appendix, No. 19. of 8th July, 1-89.
3. 3. and 4. of 17th March, 1790.
4. 3. and 4. of 31ſt March, 1790.
5. 1. and 2. of ſame date.
6. Treaſury account, No. 7. of 17th March, 1790.
7. Mr. Dundas's Appendix, No. 22. and 23. of 17th June, 1789.
8. No. 2. and 3. of 17th March, 1790.

This head is corrected from Appendix D. of the Short Review, and changes the balance from p. 10 of that pamphlet 302,704 l. to the above ſum of 1,217,153 l.

[

APPEN

An ACCOUNT exhibiting the Profit a
from INDIA and CHINA for the Year begin
1791. Taken from Papers laid before the

Dr.

References.				
No. 3. 31 March, 1790.	Nett Value of India Goods unsold 1st March, 1790, per Computation	£.	772,239	
No. 4. Ditto.	And No. 38. of 6 May, 1791. Ditto, of China. Goods —		3,200,098	
				£. 3,9
No. 19. 8 April, 1791.	Prime Cost of Indian Cargoes shipped for Europe in 1789-90, a 2s.		1,015,616	
No. 41. 10 May, 1791.	Full Cost and Charges of China, a 7-4 $\frac{20}{100}$ — —		1,629,285	
				2,6
				£. 6,6
	Commercial Charges Abroad not included in the Invoices.			
No. 40. 10 May, 1791. Estimated.	Bengal	Cr.	837,343	
Do.	Madras		125,000	
No. 10. (b.)	Bombay		129,000	
8 April. 10 (c.)	Bencoolen Estimate		343,990	
No. 27. 5 May, 1791. Do.	St. Helena Ditto		271,080	
	Ditto from Bengal		10,451	
	Prince of Wales's Island		81,427	
			1,798,291	£. 179,829
No. 39. 10 May, 1791.	Stores from England to St. Helena -	£.	14,324	
	Bencoolen		4,230	
	China		3,482	
				22,036
	China Supra-Cargoes Commission payable in England, if not added to Charges Merchandise in No. 41. 10 May, 1791, or No. 22. 7 April, to be inserted			£. 6,8
	Interest thereon—say 8 per cent. - -			5
				7,3
	Balance - -			4
				Sterling £. 7,7

N D I X. (G.)

fit and Loſs upon the EAST INDIA COMPANY's Trade eginning the 1ſt March, 1790, and ending the 1ſt March, the HOUSE of COMMONS in March and April, 1791.

Cr.

	£.	References.				£.
		No. 21.	Sales between 1ſt March, 1790, and 1ſt March, 1791.			
		7 April, 1791.	India — — Gr.		24,03,684	
			Deduct Cuſtoms	5,75,620		
£.	3,972,337		Freight -	2,48,262		
			Charges Merchandiſe	1,44,220		
					9,68,102	
					Nett £.	1,435,582
	2,644,901	No. 22. Do.	China — — Gr.		26,87,571	
£.	6,617,238		Cuſtoms —	49,260		
			Freight —	4,68,041		
			Charges Merchandiſe	1,61,254		
					6,78,555	
						2,009,016
						3,444,598
		No. 38.				
		6 May, 1791.	Goods on Hand, 1ſt March, 1791, at nett Value —	India	8,26,842	
				China	35,16,189	4,343,031
						£. 7,787,629
			Gain by the Company's Trade on their own Account —		£. 416,998	
			Profit on Licence or Privilege Goods ſold for Individuals to the Amount of 930,930l. at 7 per cent —		65,165	
	201,865				£. 482,163	
nd, 10		Note.	The Charges Merchandiſe above on India Goods — —		144,220	
£.	6,819,103		China — — —		161,254	
	551,528					
				Amount	305,474	
	7,370,631			Are leſs by	70,659	
	416,998					
£.	7,787,629				£. 376,130	

Than the Sum credited by this Head in No. 20; which, incluſive of Supra-Cargoes Commiſſion, and Intereſt, is ſtated at 376,130l.

APPENDIX. (H.)

MEMOIR

UPON

INDIA SHIPPING.

EAST INDIA NAVY, 1790.

THE freight-ſhips employed by the Eaſt India Company, two * only excepted, are chartered for four voyages, and the commands purchaſed by the captains, at large premiums.

The number of theſe bottoms, as they are called, excluſive of the Company's own ſhips above-mentioned, are ninety-three.

Their tonnage, for which freight is paid, varies every time a new ſhip is built. It now amounts to 77,950 tons; of which thirty-one are abroad, homeward bound, chartered at 26,113 tons; thirty are taken

* Britannia - 770 tons.
Admiral Hughes 957
1727.

up

up for this year, at 25,375 tons; thirty-two are on the ſtocks, and in dock, under repair for the enſuing ſeaſon.

The freight of thoſe expected back this year from India and China, ſhould no demurrage be due*, is eſtimated by the Company at 764,179 l.

Theſe ninety-three veſſels †, of tonnage - - Tons 77,950
Are able each to mount forty guns - - Guns 3,720
And to carry a complement, one with another, of two hundred and fifty men - - Men 23,250

Government have now abroad for the defence of India, one ſhip of 64 guns
Three frigates 36 and 32
Two ſloops of 16 guns,
For which the company are charged a part

* Nos. 2 and 3, date 17th March, 1790, accounts before the Houſe of Commons.

† Chartered at 2,384 guns, and 9,537 men.

of the annual expence; which, added to the freight of their merchantmen, makes the total charges of Britiſh marine in the Eaſt Indies.

It is preſumed, that a much more effective force may be applied to this ſervice, at a ſmaller expenditure, by Government undertaking to bring home the cargoes on ſhips of war, conſtructed for this ſpecial purpoſe, of ſufficient ſtrength to be able to keep the line in an engagement, and yet of competent ſtowage to pay their ſailing charges by the freight, in time of peace, at even lower rates than are now paid by the Company *.

Veſſels

* Theſe veſſels ſhould all be conſtructed in the Eaſt Indies; at Bombay, Calcutta, or Prince of Wales's Iſland (if there be conveniences for it at the latter): for by this meaſure the alarming and increaſing deficiency of Oak for our own dock-yards would be greatly remedied. In ſupport of this propoſition, there needs no more reſpectable authority than that of Major Rennel, who, mentioning the Teek foreſts, from whence the marine

yard

Veſſels of this conſtruction may be built by degrees, as the bottoms now hired run out;

yard at Bombay is furniſhed with that excellent ſpecies of ſhip-timber, cloſes the account, * by remarking "the "*unpardonable negligence* we are guilty of in delaying to "build *Teek* ſhips of war for the uſe of the Indian ſeas. "They might be *freighted home* without the ceremony of "regular equipment as to maſts, ſails, and furniture, "which might be calculated juſt to anſwer the purpoſe "of the home-paſſage at the beſt ſeaſon; and crews "could be provided in India. The letter ſubjoined in "a note, and which was written with the beſt inten-"tions nine or ten years ago, will explain the circum-"ſtances of the caſe. Teek ſhips, of forty years old "and upwards, are no uncommon objects in the In-"dian ſeas, while an European-built ſhip is ruined "there in five years. The ſhips built at Bombay † are "the beſt, both in point of workmanſhip and materials, "of any that are conſtructed in India; and although "fourth rates only are mentioned in the letter, there is "no doubt but that third rates may be conſtructed, as "there is a choice of timber. The Spaniards build ca-"pital ſhips in their foreign ſettlements. The Eaſt In-

* Page 180 of the Memoir.

† When this was written, Pegu was the only place beſides Bombay where veſſels of conſiderable burthen could be conſtructed. Colonel Watſon's docks, intended for that purpoſe in the river Hugley, were never finiſhed; but ſince the year 1786, other docks have been completed at Calcutta itſelf, capable of building ſhips of any ſize required.

out; and, in order to avoid exciting any alarm in other maritime powers, or murmurs

" dia Company have a * Teek ſhip on her fourth voyage
" at preſent, which ſhip has wintered in England;
" therefore any objection founded on the effects of froſt
" upon Teek timber, is done away."

The note itſelf is too valuable to be omitted. " Frequent have been the opportunities I have had of obſerving how very rapid the decay of ſhips built of " European timber is in the Eaſt Indies, and, on the " contrary, how durable the ſhips are that are built of " the wood of that country, namely, the Teek, which " may not improperly be called the Indian Oak. The " number of ſhips of war that were ruined in thoſe ſeas " during the late war (1757 to 1762), may be admitted " as a proof of the former remark; and the great age " of the ſhips built in India, may ſerve to prove the latter. What I mean to infer from this for your Lordſhip's uſe, is, that ſhips of war, under third rates, " may be conſtructed in India, and with moderate repairs " laſt *for ages*; whereas a ſhip of European conſtruction can remain there but a few years: to which " diſadvantage may be added that of loſing in the mean " time the ſervices of the ſhips that are ſent to relieve " the worn-out ones. Bengal produces iron and hemp;

* The Admiral Hughes.

" and

murs among the proprietors of private dock-yards, the ſhips now employed for the freight ſervice may be engaged by Government, upon contract with the preſent ſhips owners, for as long a period as they continue fit for ſervice *.

Several of the ſhips laſt conſtructed for the China trade, are of equal bulk to the largeſt of thoſe which would now be required. Others, to anſwer the purpoſe of frigates, and drawing leſs water, may be adapted to the Bengal ſervice; while the largeſt and greater number are taken up in the China and Surat voyages.

It is propoſed to divide the number of

" and the neighbouring foreſts pine maſts: nothing is " wanting to bring all theſe into uſe, but a *fit opportunity* " *and proper encouragement.*"—20th Auguſt, 1778.

* When this was written, the chartered ſhips were employed four voyages only.

ſhips,

ſhips, when complete, into three fleets of equal force.

One of theſe to be returning when another is going out.

The third, as at preſent, to lay by for repair, and refreſhment of the men belonging to it.

Each fleet ſhould carry out the firſt voyage, beſides the merchandiſe exported, a complete war-equipment for itſelf; and alſo a proper quantity of ſurplus maritime ſtores, for making a depôt at each of the three ſettlements of Bengal, Bombay, and Fort St. George.

On its arrival in the Eaſt Indies, as many ſail as may be requiſite, ſhould be employed in all the tranſport ſervice of Government and the Company; ſuch as carrying money, troops, and proviſions, from one ſettlement

to

to another; cotton from Surat to China, &c. and the remainder form a ſquadron for protection of the whole, until the ſeaſon for taking in returning cargoes; leaving no ſhip at any one port longer than is abſolutely neceſſary; ſince experience has ſhewn, that ſailors are infinitely more healthy at ſea than on ſhore, in hot climates.

When there ſhall be no apprehenſion of a war, the whole, or as many as are wanted, may be laden back for Europe, and the remainder, if any not freighted, accompany them as convoy, or remain as a fleet of war till the next year.

Thoſe that ſhall be laden, are to be previouſly ſtripped of their war equipage, and reduced to the ſtate of merchantmen, and the ſtores carefully laid by in the arſenal of the port where they are freighted for Europe.

Our

Our communication with India is now ſo expeditious, that intelligence of an apprehended rupture with any great naval power would always reach our ſettlements there in time to detain as many of the homeward-bound ſhips as would be more than competent to reſiſt any force that would then be found eaſt of the Cape of Good Hope; and the addition of one or two ſecond or third rates to the annual fleet, outward bound, would bid defiance to any naval force that could be kept againſt us in the Indian ſeas.

And, on their junction with what remained of the former year, the whole would form a naval ſtrength equal to the deſtruction of every European ſettlement, and all their ſhipping united.

Theſe veſſels ſhould be denominated *the Regiſtered Shipping for India and China*, on which

which all commodities and bullion ſhould alone be exported, or brought home, at a fair price by the ton, ſugar and bulky gruff articles alone excepted; for the tranſport of which other ſhips, conſtructed for the purpoſe by individuals, and ſailing at a lower rate of freight, may be licenſed as wanted in any number.

It has been lately in contemplation, to eſtabliſh a whale fiſhery in the Mozambique channel, for ſupplying the Eaſt Indies with oil: but the excluſive privilege has hitherto been a bar to the undertaking of ſuch plan from Europe.

Were the veſſels ſo employed to be allowed a loading back of ſugar, rum, and ſuch other articles of produce as the Company do not at preſent trade in, there is not a doubt but an extenſive ſpeculation of this kind would

would be ſet on foot, with every proſpect of benefit to the adventurers.

Should a plan of this nature be adopted, juſtice and good policy require that the greateſt attention be paid to the ſituation of the gentlemen hitherto employed in the Company's marine; a body reſpectable in their connections and education, and eſpecially diſtinguiſhed for ſkill and experience in every branch of nautical ſcience.

The late regulations for engrafting part of the Company's military eſtabliſhment into the King's regiments, may perhaps afford a model, as it does an unexceptionable precedent, for introducing theſe gentlemen with that rank into his Majeſty's navy, which their general reputation for gallantry and abilities gives aſſurance they will be far from diſgracing.

By

By continuing the pay and bounty now given by the India Company, a ſufficient number of able ſeamen may perhaps be induced to regiſter themſelves for this ſervice, attached to particular ſhips; and by exempting them from being preſſed, and allowing them to remain on ſhore at home every third year, a conſtant ſupply would be ſecured when each India fleet ſhould be wanted for ſervice in its turn.

The French had undoubtedly adopted a plan of this kind, previous to the breaking out of the laſt war. Several frigates and third-rates were ſent to the Eaſt Indies, equipped apparently for the merchants ſervice; but carrying out warlike ſtores of every kind, which were landed at the iſlands and at Pondicherry, and afterwards proved of great aſſiſtance to M. Souffrein,

Two new veſſels, ſaid to have been built for this experiment, were actually in the Ganges, above Calcutta, a very ſhort time before Chandunagore was inveſted: they were both manned with the *king's regiſtered ſeamen*, and commanded by commiſſioned officers of diſtinction, Captain Le Brun, and another whoſe name is not recollected

The writer of theſe remarks went on board one of them on the eve of her departure, and to his great ſurpriſe found her completely cleared for action; and had every reaſon to believe the French governor expected they would have been attacked going down the river, by his hurrying away all the ſhipping earlier than uſual, and ſeveral together.

He gave immediate intimation of this to the ſecretary of the Government at Calcutta, and

and tranſmitted the outline of the preceding plan to a private correſpondent at home; who, it is ſuppoſed, neglected complying with his requeſt, that it ſhould be laid before the Miniſtry.

(Copy.) APPENDI

An ACCOUNT of the Number of SHIPS, with t
wards from Great Britain to the Britiſh Weſt India I
tinguiſhing each, together with the Total Value of
Weſt Indies; diſtinguiſhing the Amount of Britiſh,

1788.

	No. of Veſſels.	Tons.	Value of Britiſh Goods.	Value of Eaſt India Goods.	Value of Foreign Goods.
Antigua — —	35	8,235	91,619 1 11	1,005 1 8	8,381 1
Barbadoes — —	49	9,484	136,690 10 10	9,999 7 6	23,497 16
Dominica — —	23	4,653	51,886 13 4	1,716 2 7	9,037 13 —
Grenada — —	44	8,304	205,188 6 11	2,588 7 1	20,132 9 —
Jamaica — —	203	35,826	759,875 17 8	18,903 4 6	96,451 18
Montſerrat — —	2	535	7,264 2 11	80 16 2	841 6 1
Nevis — —	5	1,404	13,455 14 11	139 14 11	948 15
St. Kitt's — —	34	8,215	82,353 2 4	1,049 17 —	8,841 17
St. Vincent's — —	14	3,265	54,214 18 6	1,236 8 2	6,391 12 1
Tortola — —	10	2,381	65,390 3 4	225 3 —	4,631 2
From the Ports of England — —	419	82,302	1,467,938 12 8	36,944 2 7	179,155 13
Scotland; but the Iſlands are not diſtinguiſhed in the Accounts — —	67	12,218			
Total —	486	94,520			

(Signed)

Cuſtom Houſe, London,
March 17th, 1790.

N. B. The above Diſtinction of England and Scotl

]

I X. (I. a.)

ith their TONNAGE, which cleared Out- dia Iſlands, in the Years 1788 and 1789; diſ- of Exports from Great Britain to the Britiſh iſh, India, and Foreign Goods.

Foreign ds.			1789. No. of Veſſels.	Tons.	Value of Britiſh Goods.	Value of Eaſt India Goods.	Value of Foreign Goods.
1	1	7	32	6,470	97,557 16 5	2,904 18 1	5,855 5 4
7	16	6	39	4,797	145,690 1 8	5,163 — 4	21,768 6 —
7	13	—	35	17,900	48,766 17 5	946 11 1	8,085 7 6
2	9	—	38	8,463	157,799 10 3	1,691 10 —	14,926 15 4
1	18	6	246	70,195	788,828 15 3	16,951 19 10	99,130 15 1
1	6	10	3	859	12,547 4 5	102 11 7	1,075 6 7
8	15	3	10	2,753	19,557 16 3	144 2 4	942 5 3
1	17	9	15	2,319	84,285 11 2	1,628 1 7	9,722 15 8
1	12	11	20	5,466	80,643 8 7	647 14 10	4,590 12 3
1	2	4	11	2,776	54,766 4 3	245 2 6	4,711 11 6
5	13	8	449	111,998	1,490,443 5 8	30,425 12 2	170,809 — 6

Accounts not received from Scotland of the Navigation, J. D.

gned) THOMAS IRVING,
Inſpector Gen[l] of the Imports and Exports of Great Britain, and the Britiſh Colonies.

nd Scotland applies to the Navigation Part only.

(Signed) J. DALLEY,
Aſſiſt[t] Regiſter Gen[l] of Shipping.

(Copy.) A P P E N

An ACCOUNT of the Number of SHIPS
Ports of Great Britain from the Britiſh Weſt
tinguiſhing each, and the Value of Imports fr
Amount of the Duties of Cuſtoms and Exciſe

	1788.		
	No. of Veſſels,	Tons.	Value of Imports.
Anguilla	1	96	16,744 5
Antigua	39	9,695	288,008 19
Barbadoes	44	8,477	255,316 9
Dominica	37	7,116	212,877 9
Grenada	66	15,160	471,268 11
Jamaica	242	66,584	2,141,399 3
Montſerrat	5	1,149	40,336 7
Nevis	8	2,202	44,892 11
St. Kitt's	38	9,435	289,056 6
St. Vincent's	26	5,721	152,329 14
Tortola	17	4,164	140,924 9
At the Ports of England	523	129,799	4,053,154 8
— — Scotland; but the Iſlands are not diſtinguiſhed	64	11,841	
Total	587	141,640	

Cuſtom Houſe, London,
March 17th, 1790.

(Signed) J.

The above Diſtinction of England and Sco

N. B. The above Account contai

N D I X. (I. b.)

P S, and their TONNAGE, which entered in the Veſt India Iſlands, in the Years 1788 and 1789; diſ-ts from the ſaid Iſlands to Great Britain, with the xciſe thereon, diſtinguiſhing each.

88.						1789.					
Imports.			Amount of Duties.			No. of Veſſels.	Tons.	Value of Imports.			Amount of Duties.
44	5	5	2,291	6	7	4	448	10,482	9	7	2 16 5
58	19	7	118,437	8	1	31	7,680	216,231	10	—	96,905 4 —
16	9	5	75,378	—	8	34	6,881	202,040	—	—	65,812 7 8
77	9	2	34,418	2	2	30	5,310	180,467	4	8	25,211 19 1
68	11	10	126,998	—	9	73	14,742	453,398	8	4	109,259 13 6
99	3	9	785,561	17	6	272	74,459	2,338,004	1	3	863,245 17 11
36	7	10	15,867	10	10	4	982	42,891	15	10	15,615 19 3
92	11	4	18,964	6	8	5	1,514	42,618	15	3	17,477 19 7
56	6	10	120,698	17	2	25	6,158	168,902	9	11	53,002 8 —
29	14	1	48,230	15	7	17	4,220	151,958	2	3	51,159 6 5
24	9	—	52,206	3	3	19	2,517	69,611	12	2	21,046 6 2
54	8	3	1,399,052	9	3	505 Accounts not received from Scotland of the Navigation.	124,911	3,876,606	9	3	1,312,739 18 —

(Signed) THOMAS IRVING,
Inſpector Gen[l] of the Imports and Exports of Great Britain and the Britiſh Colonies.

J. DALLEY,
Aſſiſt[t] Regiſter Gen[l] of Shipping.

and Scotland applies to the Navigation Part only.

contains the Duties of Cuſtoms only.

SUPPLEMENT.

CONformable to the advertiſement prefixed to this publication, it is now propoſed to examine ſuch parts of the GENERAL VIEW OF THE AFFAIRS OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY, as ſeem in any manner to affect the ſtatements and concluſions contained in theſe STRICTURES, and in the SHORT REVIEW OF THE TRADE OF THE INDIA COMPANY.

The particular purpoſes for which the two latter were written, are plainly and explicitly profeſſed in both of them.

The writer feels extreme ſatisfaction in finding that the public and himſelf are likely to derive every benefit he could have flat-

tered himſelf would reſult from the production of the *Short Review*.

The accounts neceſſary for eſtimating, with any degree of preciſion, the value of the Company's commerce (at that time deficient), have been ſince ſupplied; the attention of Government has been particularly attracted to this branch of the India ſyſtem; and the public, by the clear and perſpicuous ſtatements which are now produced in the *General View* of it, is at length enabled to judge for itſelf both of the territorial acquiſitions, and of each different branch of the excluſive trade with India, from documents the moſt authentic and ſatisfactory.

Whatever inaccuracies may have been diſcovered in the accounts ſtated in the *Short Review*, from the want of materials ſince ſupplied, and poſſibly of ſufficient care and

and attention; and however ill qualified the writer may have been to underſtand and digeſt thoſe public ſtatements from whence his concluſions were drawn; yet it no where appears that he has been materially wrong in the general arguments deduced from what he had before him; nor, it is preſumed, do the corrected facts ſtated by Mr. Anderſon, from fuller information upon the ſubject ſince obtained by him, carry on the face of them any complete refutation of thoſe concluſions.

In the firſt place, it was meant to point out ſome very great miſtakes into which the India miniſter had been led, by the papers laid before him for inducing his ſupport of the Directors in their application to Parliament, in the year 1789, for permiſſion to enlarge the Company's capital ſtock,

by one million ſubſcription, at 174 per cent.

This was done, by aſſuming a future *medium profit* of 1,185,000 l. per annum (incluſive of the duty of ſeven per cent. on private trade) upon the imports from India and China during the four years remaining of the Company's right to the excluſive commerce; in conſequence of an *alledged profit* of 1,115,131 l. ſtated as the Gain upon thoſe of the year 1789.

The nett ſale amount was then ſtated at 3,005,131 l. from which making deductions of prime coſt, annuities, intereſt on bonds and dividends, there remained £. 553,131

To which add private trade - 70,000

Theſe two make an addition of £. 623,131

Brought

Brought forward	£. 623,131
Add what due for dividends, intereſt, and annuities -	492,000
The ſuppoſed profit on import trade - -	£. 1,115,131

The five years ſtatement produced in the *Short Review* was made from the imports ſhipped from India and China between 1784-5, and 1788-9, comprehending the value of the goods unſold in London on the 1ſt of March, 1785, and valuing in reduction thoſe in the warehouſes on the 1ſt of March, 1790.

Mr. Anderſon's ſtatement of four years of this trade (p. 86) commences in 1787, and ends with the ſales of 1790. It is formed upon accounts of the prime coſt and ſale amount, with charges, of what have been ſold

ſold within the laſt-mentioned period *. It begins two years after, and is brought down one year later than the other.

Even upon this ſtatement, the annual *profit* amounts only to † 515,722l. applicable

* See Short Review, p. 17, to account for its not adopting the ſame period.

† Nett profit on four years ſales - - £. 2,288,128
Nett profit on private trade goods - - 308,985
Goods in warehouſe more in 1791 - - 1,545,395
4,142,508
Deduct commercial charges in India and at St. Helena, with coſt and charges of the goods unſold - - - 2,079,619
Balance of profit in four years - 2,062,889
Or per annum - - - 515,722
By borrowing, as Mr. Dundas did, from the revenues, *a ſum of* - - 650,000
The total amounts to - £. 1,165,722

But this ſurely would not be fairly eſtimating the profits upon trade.

to

to payment of annuities, intereſt, and dividends on the ſtock; the ſum received of Government for intereſt on the loan of 4,200,000 l. it ſhould ſeem, having nothing whatever to do with either import or export trades, though it has been introduced in addition to the ſuppoſed profits made upon them. The proper place for this article appears rather to be in the general balance ſheet of the commercial ſyſtem, ſeparated from the revenues; an account which ought to be * laid by the Directors before a General Court of the Proprietors once in every year, in order to govern their declaration of the enſuing dividend.

It is not meant here to queſtion the accuracy of any account which has been pro-

* This General View is produced to the public by the *Accountant to the board of control.*

duced

duced to parliament from the India Houſe; nor to inſinuate that the accounts coſt of goods ſold and remaining have of late materially differed from thoſe of the goods ſhipped from India and China, including what were on hand the year preceding; although it is generally underſtood that the former are made upon eſtimate, rather than upon actual vouchers *.

If, however, theſe eſtimates are correct, there ought to appear no difference between the amount they exhibit for the ſame period, in the way ſtated by Mr. Anderſon and that adopted in the *Short Review*, unleſs any part of the cargoes have been loſt or rendered un-

* In General View, p. 82, is ſtated a difference of 335,182 l. under the head of charges merchandiſe, *ſuppoſed* to be incurred for raiſing recruits, and in payment of packets and penſions; and therefore charged againſt the Revenues.

marketable;

marketable; in which caſes the circumſtance would undoubtedly have been pointed out.

The material difference occurring between the medium reſult of the four years ſtatement and both the others, will appear to be occaſioned by omiſſions in the firſt, which, in the opinion of the writer of the other two, he concluded ought to have place in all, for exhibiting the real profit or loſs upon this ſeparate branch of the Company's trade.

The firſt omiſſion is of part of the commercial charges, not included in the invoice.

Appendix, No. 6, to the *General View*, contains for the year 1789-90 thoſe only which were incurred at Bengal (current rupees 837,343), without mentioning thoſe of

of Madras or Bombay, which upon a medium of the two preceding years, by the ſame account, would amount,

At Madras, to	Crs.	129,641
Bombay, to -		37,300
	Crs.	166,941 £. 16,694

and which, if not aſcertainable, ought to have been ſupplied by eſtimate, as they are attempted to be in the account here produced.

The expences alſo of Fort Marlbro' are omitted altogether. Thoſe for 1789-90, according to No. 10. (b) of 27th March, 1792, were 52,340 l.

The four years expences of Prince of Wales's Iſland, Mr. Anderſon has not brought into his account, perhaps under the idea that this charge properly belongs to the head of forts and garriſons; and therefore

concludes that it is comprehended in the ſtatements of aſſets, or of ſtock by computation. The ſupply from Bengal for that year (No. 27, 5th May, 1791) is ſtated 8,143 l.

Bengal likewiſe furniſhed ſtores to the iſland of St. Helena, to the amount of 1,045 l.

The reader muſt decide whether the Prince of Wales's Iſland is to be conſidered as a territorial or a commercial eſtabliſhment; whether the large ſums expended there, are or are not, temporary charges, incidental to the firſt conſtruction of that harbour; and what part, if any, of the amount ſhould be laid upon the trade. The whole of it is inſerted here.

He will alſo exerciſe his own judgment as to the other additional articles ſtated in this

this Appendix: whether the China trade be liable to any of them, or to what proportions; and whether any ſhare ſhould fall upon the exports of goods from England; recollecting that, as the Company themſelves never compute any freight upon the latter, the ſame principle ſeems to warrant exempting them from theſe charges likewiſe.

The moſt material omiſſion is that of intereſt * upon the prime coſt and charges of the cargoes ſhipped for Europe.

* If the bond-debt abroad be conſidered as the only incumbrance upon the revenues, and the amount of the certificates, and other loans taken up at intereſt, as a debt on the commerce, the whole intereſt upon the latter ought to be charged againſt the trade. But in *General View*, p. 23, the certificate debt is ſtated to have originated in 1785, for putting the arrears in train of liquidation, and the intereſt conſidered a charge upon the revenues.

In

In Appendix, G. it here ſtands at 551,528l. on a ſingle year's trade.

Inſtead of which, Mr. Anderſon debits the trade (p. 88) with that only which has been paid in England on bills drawn from India for commercial purpoſes, 8,829l. in four years, or, per annum, 2,207l.

However right it may have been, in a political point of view, to have authoriſed the drawing bills upon England for diſcharge of the India bond-debt; and however beneficial the meaſure certainly has been to the general ſyſtem, and particularly to the commercial credit of the Company; yet, when computing merely the actual profit upon any ſeparate operation of trade, it becomes neceſſary to ſtate preciſely every

charge with which ſuch operation is incumbered *.

The neceſſity which then exiſted of reviving the drooping credit of the Company abroad is admitted, and the benefits alſo of the plan adopted for that purpoſe, namely, the acceptance of bonds and † certificates in exchange for bills upon the Directors, payable out of the produce of the ſales at home. Had not this expedient been adopted, the commercial board would have been left without other reſources for inveſtment home, than the product of goods annually ſent out from Europe.

* Refer to p. 85 of the *General View*.

† Certificates were at firſt admitted, and frequently paid in, while the diſcount on both remained nearly equal; they do not, however, appear to have been ever diſtinguiſhed.

But

But as it was imagined that nearly the whole coſt of the returning cargoes had been taken from the revenues as the fund or capital for carrying on the trade, the amount ſo applied appeared liable to the ſame rate of intereſt as the debt of thoſe revenues; * ſince that debt might elſe have been diminiſhed, by applying to its reduction the ſum thus taken for aſſiſting the trade.

In page 84 of the *General View*, only 807,712 l. is the ſum ſtated to have been annually ſo employed; the intereſt therefore on that ſum only will be chargeable upon the import commerce from the time of its appropriation in advances to the board of trade, to that of its being realized from the ſales in England.

* P. 18, Short Review, anſwered p. 84 of General View.

And if the above medium upon 3,230,486l. be taken as the amount annually ſupplied by the territory to the commerce; the latter ought moreover to be charged with a fourth of 203,658l. (in p. 82) incurred for intereſt on the bills drawn for transferring the India bond-debt during the ſame period *.

Theſe differences materially alter the profit and loſs account of the India and China import trade, which, notwithſtanding, muſt

* It will not eſcape the attentive reader's obſervation, that theſe two articles have place already in Mr. Anderſon's *Revenue* Statement, and that they are only here removed to the *commercial* department, which will create no alteration whatever in the reſult of a general view of both; the only queſtion being to which of the two they actually belong. Whereas the four years expences of Prince of Wales's Iſland and Fort Marlbro', the commercial charges for two years at Bombay, and for that of 1789-90 at Bengal (with the ſupplies from Bencoolen to China in 1787-8, (if any), are by him omitted altogether, and by their amount affect the ultimate reſult of the General View.

be

be in a train of progreſſive improvement, ſince the ſame mode of ſtating it, which between the years 1785 and 1790 gave a loſs of 1,217,153 l. or per annum £. 245,430

in 1790-91 gives a profit of 482,163

Exhibiting a difference of, per annum - - £. 727,593

And according to that adopted in the *General View*, the medium of four years profit amounted only to — — £. 641,722

Improvement the year following £. 85,871

This alteration for the better muſt be highly ſatisfactory to the Proprietors, and affords the moſt unequivocal proof of the benefits derived from the preſent ſyſtem of management.

It does not yet, however, by any means

come up to the profit which ought to be expected from a concern of ſuch riſk and capital. The India trade, particularly, ſtill appears to be unproductive; in examining which, the period of Mr. Anderſon's ſtatement, and his own materials, will afford a demonſtration of this fact, if it be allowed to add only what he appears to have left out of the calculation.

In page 86 of the *General View*, four years Indian imports are ſtated to have yielded a profit upon the ſale of goods, between 1787 and 1791 * (7,966,715 l.) of £. 406,482

It

* The goods unſold 1ſt March, 1791, amounted to more than on 1ſt March, 1787, by (p. 87.) - £. 1,545,395

Chargeable for the Houghton's cargo, tea, &c. *Short Eſtimate of India and China cargoes* £. 1,060,151

Add difference of freight more incurred than charged, ibid. 480,034

£. 1,540,175

By

It is taken for granted, that all the commercial "charges not added to the invoices," and the "ſupplies to China from India," which appear in the Appendix, No. 6, of the General View, are included in the ſum of 7,560,233 l. ſtated as their prime coſt, and ſeveral charges of freight, cuſtoms, &c.

What alone appear to have been omitted, muſt here be ſupplied, viz.

Commercial charges at Bombay, for the year 1786-7, on a medium of two years following, will amount to Crs. 37,300

By this it ſhould ſeem as if the profit on the goods unſold, amounting in value to 4,343,031 l. had been anticipated, and therefore that *five* years profits have been included in the *four* years ſtatement.

Brought forward	Crs. 37,300	
The ſame for 1789-90	37,300	
Madras for 1789-90	129,641	
Current rupees	204,241	or £. 20,424
And intereſt paid in England on part of the India debt tranſferred — —		£. 203,658
Deducted from the above		£. 224,082
Leaves a profit, by this account of — —		£. 182,400
Or, per annum, of —		£. 45,600

If this trade be ſuppoſed liable to any conſiderable part of the difference in charges merchandiſe (p. 82, 335,182 l.), or to the expences at Bencoolen and Prince of Wales's Iſland, the balance will appear on the

the contrary ſide of the account, and the Indian *imports* exhibit a loſs, inſtead of profit, for the period comprehended in the *General View.*

The *exports* from England to India offer as yet no counterbalance to this loſing branch of trade. The amount of goods and ſtores, p. 83, 2,252,931 l. is not accounted for within 63,900 l. of the prime coſt; *which ſum is therefore made up by a charge againſt the revenues of India.* As accounts are wanting for aſcertaining whether a gain or a loſs has accrued upon it, the reader for the preſent muſt be left to form his own calculation. Hereafter they may be expected to be ſo ſtated from abroad, as will enable him to diſtinguiſh the ſtores from the merchandiſe, and the profit or loſs upon both.

But admitting the exports to afford neither

ther one nor the other, and taking the imports to have yielded the above average of 45,600 l. per annum *, this trade will have afforded but a very trifling † " reſource for " paying off the heavy load of debts with " which the Company is already incum- " bered," and juſtifies what has been aſſerted, that, in eſtimating the value of it, " ‡ a freſh exchange ought to be fixed " upon, and the trade carried on upon a " very different plan to that on which it " has been hitherto conducted," before any permanent agreement can ſafely be made by the Company for tranſmitting the ſurplus revenues on account of the government of Great Britain.

* Fortunately, though upwards of thirty cargoes have been imported, no one ſhip has been loſt, homeward-bound, for ſome years. The inſurance is conſidered four per cent. For other riſks to which this trade is liable, ſee *Short Review*, p. 15.

† Short Review, p. 19. ‡ Ibid. p. 9.

It

It ſeems equally neceſſary that the fund for carrying on this commerce ſhould be increaſed; for if in time of peace, and incumbered only with the debt of the laſt Carnatic war, the revenues have been able to afford no more than a loan of 807,712 l. per annum to the commerce for paying the transferred debt, whenever the expences of the Myſore invaſion come to be made up, which intelligent people abroad have eſtimated at ten millions ſterling, it may juſtly be apprehended that the intereſt alone, at 8 per cent. 800,000 l. per annum, payable abroad, will abſorb all the ſurplus hitherto applied to inveſtment, and will leave moſt of the returning ſhips to be laden by private adventurers only *.

* The eſtimate of Bengal reſources for 1791-2, ſtates an expected deficiency at the end of this year of 3,652,252 l. including certificates, and loans at 12 per cent. intereſt, together with a ſum of 666,000 l. for the purpoſe of inveſtment home.

This

This point will doubtleſs have obtained the early attention of the Court of Directors, into whoſe immediate province it falls, and of the Board of Commiſſioners, who have lately been induced to conſider the department of commerce, equally with the revenues, entitled to their moſt ſerious conſideration.

The publication of Mr. Anderſon's *General View of the Affairs of the Company*, has undoubtedly refuted the idea of a loſs having accrued altogether upon the trade with India and China, greatly to the ſatisfaction of the writer of the *Short Review* of it, and to the proprietors at large. It has moreover rendered ſome parts of the preceding Strictures inapplicable and unneceſſary; but as the work had been ſent to the preſs before his clear and comprehenſive ſtatement appeared, and as there perhaps may be found

in

in this ſome uſeful hints and obſervations, the book is offered to him and to the public with all its imperfections.

Admitting, therefore, with a few reſervations, the merit, and, in general, the accuracy of that performance, the writer of this congratulates himſelf, as an individual proprietor, in the beneficial effects of his firſt eſſay, which ſeems to have occaſioned the production of almoſt every account therein called for; and to have tended in a conſiderable degree to furniſh the public and the proprietary with moſt of the materials requiſite for governing their judgment of the comparative benefits to be expected from continuing or aboliſhing the monopoly of the trade; and, as a citizen, upon having obtained the ends he had propoſed to himſelf in theſe publications; and having been in ſome meaſure inſtrumental in calling forth that

that able inveſtigation of the whole Indian ſyſtem, which is now admitted to have been abſolutely neceſſary for enabling the public to form any juſt opinion of the meaſures intended to be hereafter adopted for conducting the machinery of Eaſt Indian government and Eaſtern commerce to the advantage of the ſtate of Great Britain.

FINIS.